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THE HINDU

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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

NAVA KARNATAKA
FOR NAVA BHARAT

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

Karnataka - Heralding A New Era Of Progress

Inauguration, Dedication to the Nation and Foundation Stone Laying for 19 Projects worth over Rs. 33,000 crore

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

In the august presence of

Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot
Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka

Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

June 20, 2022 | Bengaluru

Time: 01.45 PM | Bengaluru University Campus

Dedication to the Nation of 150 ITIs upgraded as Technology Hubs

Rs. 4,736 crore

- The program will train 1.2 lakh ITI students per annum
- Will ensure that ITI passouts are industry-ready
- Outreach to 1 lakh candidates from other technical institutions
- Overall, will increase employment opportunities for the youth of the State

Inauguration of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University (BASE) & Unveiling the Statue of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Rs. 201 crore

- Inauguration of the campus built on a sprawling 43.35 acres of area, funded by the Government of Karnataka. BASE University will set a new model for teaching and research in economics and assist the Central and State governments in policy formulations.

Time: 12.30 PM | IISc, Bengaluru

Inauguration of Centre for Brain Research (CBR)

Rs. 280 crore

- The creation of CBR and the vital research being carried out in rural Karnataka will provide appropriate, evidence-based public health interventions to delay the onset of dementia and slow its progress.

Foundation Stone Laying for Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital

Rs. 425 crore

- This 832-bed not-for-profit Hospital for Clinical Research will integrate science, engineering and medicine on a single campus, taking full advantage of the century-old excellence of IISc in science and engineering.

Time: 02.45 PM | Kommaghatta, Bengaluru

Dedication to the Nation of Railway Projects

100% Electrification of Konkan Railway

Rs. 1,287 crore

- 70% savings in fuel expenditure and reduction in pollution

Sir M. Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal, Bengaluru

Rs. 314 crore

- Centrally air-conditioned terminal - a first in South India
- Decongests KSR-Bengaluru and Yesvantpur terminals
- Enables starting of new trains

Doubling of Arsikere - Tumakuru track and flagging off of new train services

Rs. 758 crore

- Enables running of more trains
- Enhances connectivity between Arsikere and upcoming smart city Tumakuru

Doubling of Yelahanka-Penukonda track and flagging off of new train services

Rs. 1,104 crore

- Improves punctuality and allows running of more number of passenger/goods trains

Foundation Stone Laying for Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project

Rs. 15,767 crore **Route Length: 148 km**

- Connects Bengaluru with suburban areas and neighbouring satellite towns and decongests the traffic
- Helps in ease of movement for citizens of Bengaluru
- Reduces transit time and saves a lot of man-hours
- A multi-modal transport system - it connects to Indian Railways and Metro Stations, resulting in seamless passenger movement
- After completion, more than 10 lakh passengers will use this facility daily

Foundation Stone Laying for Railway Projects

Redevelopment of Bengaluru Cantonment - Rs. 470 crore and Yesvantpur Stations - Rs. 400 crore

- World-class airport like terminals with modern facilities

Foundation Stone Laying for 5 National Highway Projects & Development of Multi Modal Logistic Park in Bengaluru

Rs. 7,231 crore | Total length: 186 km

Multi Modal Logistic Park

- Will drive economic growth and trade competitiveness of the country

Mysuru

Time: 05.30 PM | Maharaja College Ground

Dedication to the Nation of Centre of Excellence of AIISH and interaction with beneficiaries of various schemes

Rs. 155.49 crore

- The centre will focus on generating knowledge to improve the holistic understanding of the people with communication disorders and will work on reducing their disadvantages.

Foundation Stone Laying for Naganahalli and Mysuru New Coaching Complex

Rs.487 crore

- Will decongest Mysuru yard and meet the demand of passengers for long distance services

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

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Five High Courts in country to get new Chief Justices
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India, South Africa share honours after rain mars fifth T20I
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NEARBY

Modi visit: Institutions declare holiday

BENGALURU

Many educational institutions will be closed on Monday on account of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru. While some have been directed to remain closed by the Education Department, some took the call on their own keeping security concerns.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

COMEDK UGET sees good attendance

BENGALURU

COMEDK UGET 2022 and Uni-Gauge, the annual entrance examinations conducted by the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) was held across 154 cities (230 centres) in the country on Sunday with 92.63% and 93.50% attendance in two slots.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Cong. blamed for Agnipath violence

BENGALURU

Accusing the Congress of inciting trouble over the Agnipath scheme, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that no responsible citizen will indulge in violence causing damage to public property.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 4 & 5

Services rule out rollback of Agnipath, reveal hiring plan

Aspirants should not have been part of protests

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Terming Agnipath the "only progressive step" to make the Army younger, a senior military officer on Sunday ruled out any rollback of the scheme, and said those applying for it should give an undertaking that they did not take part in protests that broke out after its announcement.

The three Services announced the recruitment schedule for the first batch of Agniveers with training set to commence by 2022-end.

"There is no space for indiscipline in the armed forces. No space for arson and vandalism. Every individual who aspires to join Agnipath has to give an undertaking and pledge that they have not taken part in any protest or arson... There will be police verification after that. No one can come into the armed forces without police verification," Lieutenant-General Anil Puri, Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs, said at a tri-service press conference after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met the three Service chiefs for the second consecutive day.

Lt. Gen. Puri said efforts to bring down the average age of the armed forces started three decades ago. The Kargil review committee had reiterated the need for a reduction in age, but it did not come about, he added.

With Agnipath, he said, the average age will come down from 32 to 26 in line with the age profile of major Armies worldwide.

Stressing that future wars will be technology driven and hence a younger profile is required, Mr. Puri said there had been no opportunity in the past 30 years to undertake this transformative reform.

Noting that recruitment was not held for two years due to the pandemic, he said "God and nature" gave this opportunity to build a younger Army. The forces had been waiting since 1984 to reduce the age profile, he said.

On Agniveers, he said their allowances would be the same as what regular soldiers drew. There would be no discrimination.

IAF schedule

Air Marshal S.K. Jha, Air Officer in-charge, Personnel, said the notification and registration process for enrolment of the first batch would go live online from June 24 through the online system of the Indian Air Force.

"From July 24, an online examination will start and by end December, we will enrol the first batch and December 30, the training will commence," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Pressing ahead: Lt. General Anil Puri, Additional Secretary, Military Affairs Department, at a press meet in New Delhi. • PTI

Call for Bharat bandh today

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla chaired a meeting of DGPs and Chief Secretaries on Sunday to take stock of the violence against the Agnipath scheme and the Bharat bandh call for Monday. It was not clear which organisation had announced the protest but the police in several areas imposed ban orders under Section 144 of the CrPC.

REPORT ON ▸ PAGE 11

Distinct rank for Agniveers

Agniveers recruited under the Agnipath scheme will form a distinct rank different from any other existing rank and also sport distinctive insignia on the uniform, according to the terms and conditions of the scheme. Personnel enrolled will be required to undergo periodic medical check-ups and physical and written tests.

REPORT ON ▸ PAGE 10

India gives emergency visas for 111 Afghan Hindus, Sikhs

Clearance comes after terror attack on Kabul gurdwara

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry granted emergency visas to 111 Hindus and Sikhs from Afghanistan, hours after Saturday's terror attack at a gurdwara in Kabul. All had applied for visas in September 2021, but the applications were cleared only after the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), a terrorist group, attacked the gurdwara on Saturday killing two persons including a Sikh *granthi*, a member representing the community said.

Only 159 minorities remain in Afghanistan after the Taliban took control in August 2021, including three members who do not have any passport.

The community had been petitioning the government to clear the visas after the ISKP issued threats two weeks ago in retaliation for the controversial statement made against the Prophet by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

According to Puneet Singh Chandhoke, president of the India World Forum, who has been coordinating with the Indian government to evacuate Sikhs from Afghanistan, the applicants had applied for visas as early as September 12, 2021 but it was being blocked for security clearance. "Though the visas had been pending for months, it was cleared within hours of the attack at the gurdwara on Saturday. The person who died [Satwinder Singh] was also among those who intended to travel to India," Mr. Chandhoke said.

Vikramjit Sahney, Rajya Sabha member and international president World Punjabi Organisation, said discussions were on with the External Affairs Ministry for evacuating the members on a special flight and "we are hopeful of the solution very soon". Mr. Sahney said, "The Taliban government is doing their best to restore the situation, but the gurdwara has been damaged by more than 85%, so it is likely that some Afghan Sikhs will stay back to get gurdwara repaired, and they will come later to India."

He said in continuation of the "My family, my responsibility" programme, the Afghan Sikhs will be rehabilitated by providing them free accommodation, household expenses, medical insurance and skilling for children.

Mr. Chandhoke said Taliban authorities visited the gurdwara on Sunday and gave 1,50,000 Afghani rupees for repairs and 1,00,000 rupees for the kin of each of the deceased.

PLAN TO REOPEN EMBASSY MAY BE DELAYED ▸ PAGE 10

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Target of attack: Taliban fighters at the site of an explosion in front of a gurdwara in Kabul on Saturday. • AP

India has really helped us during this crisis, says Ranil

PM sounds upbeat in possibly his toughest assignment

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

India has "really helped" Sri Lanka in its efforts to cope with the country's economic crash, the island nation's Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, said, however observing that aid coming in from different sources has put Sri Lanka "in the middle of geopolitics".

Over a month after his unexpected appointment, Mr. Wickremesinghe spoke to *The Hindu* in his Colombo office on Saturday. The six-time premier sounded surprisingly upbeat in possibly the toughest assignment of his political career of nearly half a century. "It's hectic, this is a new experience. I am working eight days a week," he laughed.

Outlining his immediate plans for economic recovery, the 73-year-old Prime Minister said the government hopes to firm up the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by June-end. "Then we have to wait for the debt restructuring plan. That will give us a clear indication of what we have to do. By July, I also hope to bring in the interim Budget," he said. Speaking of a "donor conference", Mr. Wickremesinghe said: "We have got to ensure that India, China, Japan all are singing the same tune." Sri Lanka is "in the middle of geopolitics", he said, referring to the assistance from China and Quad members India and Japan. Mr. Wickremesinghe emphatically welcomed the Adani Group's entry into the country's energy sector, despite the group's project being caught in a controversy, after a top Sri Lankan official told a Parliamentary panel that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "pressured" President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to clear the $500-million renewable energy project. The official subsequently withdrew his statement.

INTERVIEW ▸ PAGE 13

Bird-hit leaves plane engine ablaze

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Delhi flight of SpiceJet with 191 people on board returned to the Patna airport soon after take-off on Sunday morning as one of its engines caught fire after a bird-hit. The aircraft landed safely, and no injuries were reported.

"On take-off, the cockpit crew suspected a bird hit on engine one. As a precautionary measure and following standard operating procedures, the captain shut down the affected engine and decided to return to Patna," a SpiceJet spokesperson said. An inspection revealed three damaged fan blades. A DGCA official confirmed it was a bird hit.

Mahodiya, Phulera: real and reel blur in ballot battle

Themes of popular TV series Panchayat play out in the local body elections

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
SEHORE

With the polling day for the panchayat elections less than a week away, campaigning in Mahodiya village of Madhya Pradesh's Sehore is in full swing. The village serves as the location for *Panchayat*, a popular web series on Amazon Prime that captures many aspects of rural politics through the eyes of its city-bred protagonist, the panchayat secretary.

A visit to the village suggests that many electoral issues for the June 25 polls resonate with the broad theme of the show, where it assumes the fictional identity of Phulera in Uttar Pradesh. There are also parallels between specific plot points in the script and the situation on the ground.

The water tank close to the panchayat office, for instance, that the makers of the show cite as a pivotal factor in zeroing in on Mahodiya, is now a key poll plank. Villagers say that it was built close to a decade ago and they are yet to receive water from it.

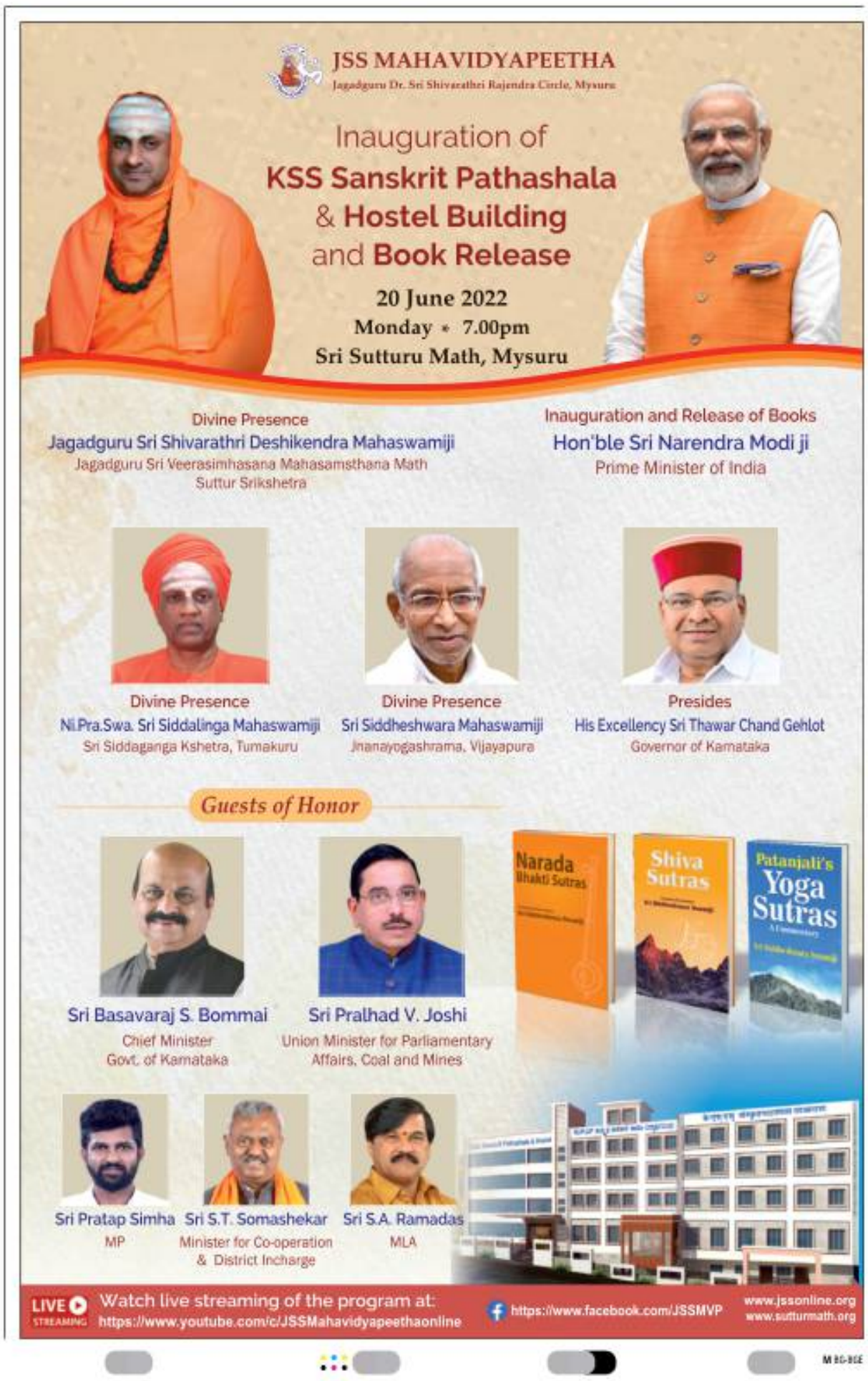
Much like the web series, the culture of Pradhan-Pati – a system where the men of the family run the show on behalf of the elected representative – thrives here.

Due to the Other Backward Class (OBC) reservation rule, the village will now elect an OBC woman as sarpanch. That rules out Lal Singh, husband of the outgoing Sarpanch Rajkumari Sisodia, or his wife, as they are from a general category caste. Mr. Singh has fielded Reena Bai, whose campaign pamphlet now carries her picture, along with those of her husband and Mr. Singh, his picture being bigger than the actual candidate.

Apart from water, the other major issue is upgrading the middle school of the village to a high school.

Residents claim that as shown in *Panchayat*, local self-governance issues are often settled via outdoor public debates. The day *The Hindu* visited the village, one such episode played out with a man called Brijesh engaging in a heated argument with the panchayat secretary, Harish Joshi.

Mirroring reality: The water tank close to the panchayat office in the show is now a key poll plank. • A.M. FARUQUI



THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Fury of floods

62 The death toll from massive flooding and mudslides in Assam. Assam's disaster management agency said 32 of the State's 35 districts were underwater as the Brahmaputra river broke its banks, displacing more than three million people. Annual rains hit the region in June-September. The rains are crucial for crops planted during the season but often cause extensive damage. The flooding has also spilled over to neighbouring Bangladesh, where the government said the situation was likely to deteriorate in Sunamganj and Sylhet. AP

Free fall

13 The % by which Bitcoin tumbled on Saturday, crashing below the closely watched $20,000 level to its weakest level in 18 months. It has lost about 60% of its value this year, while rival cryptocurrency Ethereum is down 74%. In 2021, Bitcoin peaked at more than $68,000. The developments have coincided with an equities slide, as U.S. stocks suffered their biggest weekly percentage decline in two years on fears of rising interest rates and the growing likelihood of a recession. The deepening slide could force more investors to unload Bitcoin. REUTERS

Blazing wildfires

25 In thousand of hectares, the area destroyed by the most alarming blaze in the Sierra de Culebra mountain range in northern Spain. It started on Wednesday during a dry thunderstorm but firefighters said cooler overnight temperatures had helped them make gains in their battle against the flames. Smaller wildfires were also raging in the northwestern region of Catalonia and the northern Navarra region. Temperatures of more than 40°C have been recorded in many cities throughout the week but they dropped on Sunday in most of the country. AFP

Delays and expenses

428 The number of infrastructure projects each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more that have been hit by cost overruns of more than ₹4.98 lakh crore. According to a report by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the expenditure incurred on these projects till April 2022 was ₹13,50,610.98 crore, which was 50.54% of their anticipated cost. Out of the 647 delayed infrastructure projects, 119 projects have been delayed for 61 months and above. PTI

Fishermen released

20 The number of Indian fishermen who were released by Pakistan in a goodwill gesture on Sunday. The fishermen had been languishing in jail for the last five years for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's waters. The fishermen were lodged at the Malir district jail in the Landhi area of Karachi. They were sent to the Wagah border where they will be handed over to the Indian authorities. Pakistan and India regularly arrest rival fishermen for violating the maritime boundary which is poorly marked at some points. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Indian interests at the WTO Ministerial Conference

What is the Geneva package? How did India present and push its interests especially with regard to the fisheries and agriculture sectors?

THE GIST

- On June 17, member countries of the WTO wrapped up the Ministerial Conference's twelfth outing (MC12) securing agreements on relaxing patent regulations to achieve global vaccine equity; ensuring food security, according subsidies to the fisheries sector and continuing moratoriums relevant to e-commerce, among others. Together they constitute the "Geneva Package."
- Negotiators could not reach agreements on issues such as permissible public stockholding threshold for domestic food security, domestic support to agriculture, cotton, and market access.
- Within the next six months, members are expected to decide on increasing the scope of the agreement to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics as well.

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On June 17, member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) wrapped up the Ministerial Conference's twelfth outing (MC12) securing agreements on relaxing patent regulations to achieve global vaccine equity; ensuring food security, according subsidies to the fisheries sector and continuing moratoriums relevant to e-commerce, among others. Together they constitute what WTO's Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala referred to as the "Geneva Package." India saw some successes at the MC12 with respect to the above mentioned sectors.

What is the WTO's Ministerial Conference?

The MC is at the very top of WTO's organisational chart. It meets once every two years and can take decisions on all matters under any multilateral trade agreement. Unlike other organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund or World Bank, WTO does not delegate power to a board of directors or an organisational chief. All decisions at the WTO are made collectively and through consensus among member countries at varied councils and committees. This year's conference took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

What were the debates around agriculture at the MC?

The agreements on the subject are of particular significance to India. Referring to its status as a significant contributor to the World Food Programme (WFP), India had earlier stated that it had never imposed export restrictions for procurement under the programme. It put forth that a blanket exemption could constrain its work in ensuring food security back home. In such a situation, it would have to keep its WFP commitments irrespective of its domestic needs. Negotiators agreed that member countries would not impose export prohibitions or restrictions on foodstuffs purchased for humanitarian purposes of the WFP. The decision would however not prevent member countries from adopting measures for ensuring domestic food security.

Negotiators could not reach agreements on issues such as permissible public stockholding threshold for domestic food security, domestic support to agriculture, cotton, and market access. The central premise of the agreements was to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of food to those in need, especially in humanitarian emergencies. It encouraged member countries with available surplus to release them on international markets in compliance with WTO regulations. Moreover, it instituted a work programme to come up with measures to help LDCs (least-developed countries) and NFIDCs (Not Food Importing Developing Countries) enhance their domestic food security and bolster agricultural production.

What about fisheries related agreements?

India successfully managed to carve out an agreement on eliminating subsidies to those engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The only exception for continuing subsidies for overfished stock is when they are deemed essential to rebuild them to a biologically sustainable level. Overfishing refers to exploiting fishes at a pace faster than they could replenish themselves – currently standing at 34% as per the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Declining fish stocks threaten to worsen poverty and endanger communities that rely on aquatic creatures for their livelihood and food security.

Further, the agreements hold that there would be no limitation on subsidies granted or maintained by developing or least-developed countries for fishing within their exclusive economic zones (EEZ).

Have the current moratoriums on electronic transmissions been extended?

Member countries agreed to extend the current moratorium on not imposing customs duties on electronic transmission (ET) until MC13 – scheduled to take place in December 2023. 105 countries which includes the U.S. , the U.K., Australia, China and Japan among others , had sought an extension of the moratorium, with India and South Africa being in opposition.

Broadly, ETs consist of online deliveries such as music, e-books, films, software and video games. They differ from other cross-border e-commerce since they are ordered online but not delivered physically.

Proponents had put forth that the moratorium would help maintain certainty and predictability for businesses and consumers particularly in the context of the pandemic. On the other hand, India and South Africa, citing data from the UN Conference on Trade and Development (which calculates the amount of printed matter, music and video downloads, software and video games), submitted that extending duty-free market access due to the moratorium resulted in a loss of $10 billion per annum globally – 95% of which was borne by developing countries. Additionally, they had also sought more clarity on what constitutes electronic transmission.

Customs duties have been traditionally used to avert an undesired surge in imports, allowing nascent domestic industries to remain competitive. Developing countries would need to import sizeable equipment and services for upscaling their digital capabilities. Customs duties provide the necessary capital infusion for capacity building and in turn, attempt to address the digital divide – particularly high in low-income and developing countries, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is in this context that India and South Africa had sought to preserve policy space for the digital advancement of developing countries by letting them generate more revenues from customs and thereby facilitate more investment.

What were the discussions on patent relaxations?

Member countries agreed on authorising the use of the subject matter of a patent for producing COVID-19 vaccines by a member country, without the consent of the rights holder. Further, it asks member countries to waive requirements, including export restrictions, set forth by WTO regulations to supply domestic markets and member countries with any number of vaccines. The agreement, however, comes too little, too late for economically poorer countries.

Several LDCs have suffered in their efforts to combat the now nearly three-year-old pandemic, owing to factors such as a stressed balance of payments situation , different levels of development, financial capabilities and varying degrees of import dependence on those products.

Within the next six months, members are expected to decide on increasing the scope of the agreement to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics as well.

Trade talks: Director General of the WTO, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala speaks at the opening ceremony of the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 12. • AFP

EXPLAINER

Auctioning 5G spectrum bands

What are the use cases of the new cellular technology? How is the roll-out being planned?

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The story so far: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its nod for the auction of spectrum that can be used to offer 5G services, at its meeting held on June 14. A total of 72,097.85 MHz (or 72 Ghz) of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years will be put on sale during the auction planned towards the end of July. The auction will be held for spectrum in various Low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), Mid (3300 MHz) and High (26 GHz) frequency bands. It is expected that the Mid and High band spectrum will be utilised by telecom service providers (TSPs) to roll-out 5G services wherein speeds would be 10 times higher than what is possible through the current 4G services. This follows the Budget 2022 announcement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that the government would auction telecom spectrum in 2022, which will enable private players to roll out 5G services before March 2023.

When will the spectrum be auctioned?

The auctions are scheduled to commence from July 26. The Department of Telecom has invited applications from prospective bidders to participate in the auctions. Based on the applications, the government will pre-qualify applicants who meet the eligibility criteria.

When will the commercial roll-out happen?

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently said that the 5G deployment is likely to start from August-September this year, and service should commence in about 20-25 cities by the year-end.

Experts and analysts expect a gradual roll-out of 5G across the country in a phased manner over the next two to three years, with roll-outs beginning from the second half of the current year.

"Given the operator's public statements, nascent 5G device penetration and limited use cases, we expect a more gradual 5G roll out by telcos over the next 2-3 years," according to a note by Credit Suisse. Likewise, Nomura in a research note has said that relief measures by the government, such as scrapping of spectrum usage charges (SUC) for future spectrum auctions and moratorium on deferred spectrum payments and Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues has considerably eased the pathway for 5G rollouts in India. "...we think 5G rollouts would commence in 2HCY22F. However, given the nascent 5G ecosystem and evolving use cases, we think 5G rollouts would likely be granular starting with metros and larger cities," Nomura added.

What are the key issues?

The two issues that the industry has highlighted with regards to the upcoming auctions are high reserve prices for the spectrum and direct allotment of spectrum to enterprises for setting up captive private networks.

The government has accepted the recommendations given by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on reserve prices for spectrum auctions. While the TRAI had earlier recommended reducing prices of airwaves across various bands by 35-40% from its earlier proposed base price, the telecom operators had expressed disappointment given their demand for a 90% cut in the prices. "At these prices, a block of 5MHz spectrum (paired) in the 700MHz band will cost ₹196bn (US$2.5bn), 50MHz block in the 3.4GHz band will cost ₹159bn (US$2bn) and 400MHz block in the 26GHz band will cost ₹28bn (US$0.4bn)," according to Credit Suisse.

On allowing direct allocation of spectrum for captive non-public networks, the government has reasoned that the move will spur a new wave of innovations in Industry 4.0 applications such as machine to machine communications, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) across automotive, healthcare, agriculture, energy, and other sectors. However, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which counts the three private telcos as its members, has said that the move severely degrades the business case of TSPs. "This will diminish the revenue so much that there will be no viable business case left for the TSPs and there will not remain any need for 5G networks roll-out by TSPs," it had said before the Cabinet decision.

What benefits are likely to come with 5G?

5G is the next generation cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra low latency. As per the set standards, with 5G, the peak network speeds are expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gbps as opposed to about 25 Mbps on current 4G networks. In India, however, 4G speeds average at around 6-7 Mbps, but are picking up gradually.

It is expected that with 5G technology, consumers will be able to download data heavy content such as 8K movies and games with better graphics in just a few seconds. The users will need to update to 5G-enabled devices to access the network, if they are not already using one. However, it is likely that the primary use of the technology will go beyond delivery of services on personal mobile devices. 5G is expected to form the backbone of emerging technologies such as IoT and machine to machine communications, thereby supporting a much larger range of applications and services, such as tele-surgery and real time data analytics. Ultra low latency offered by 5G makes the technology desirable for such use cases. Latency is the amount of time data takes to travel between its source and destination.

As per a report by a government panel on 5G, even after the entry of 5G into the Indian networks, the earlier generation mobile technologies – 2G, 3G and 4G, will continue to remain in use and may take 10 or more years to phase out. 5G is expected to create a cumulative economic impact of $1 trillion in India by 2035, the report added.

THE GIST

- The Union Cabinet gave its nod for the auction of spectrum that can be used to offer 5G services, at its meeting held on June 14. A total of 72 Ghz of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years will be put on sale towards the end of July.
- The two issues that the industry has highlighted with regards to the upcoming auctions are high reserve prices for the spectrum and direct allotment of spectrum to enterprises for setting up captive private networks.
- 5G is expected to form the backbone of emerging technologies such as IoT and machine to machine communications, thereby supporting a much larger range of applications and services, such as tele-surgery and real time data analytics.

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Bengaluru South	Hubballi	Ballari	Mysuru	Davangere
2nd July 2022	**2nd July 2022**	**3rd July 2022**	**3rd July 2022**	**3rd July 2022**
NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium, 22nd Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru	**K. L. E Societys Bio Technology Auditorium**, B.V.B College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar	**BPSC Pre University College** Ananthapuru Road, Ballari	**Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering** P.B. No.206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru	**BAPUJI B School** BAPUJI MBA College, Lake View Campus, S S Layout, Davanagere

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Good attendance for COMEDK UGET this year

In Karnataka of the 22,347 students who had registered, 21,108 wrote the test, taking the State's attendance to 94% in each session

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

COMEDK UGET 2022 and Uni-Gauge, the annual entrance examinations conducted by the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) was held across 154 cities (230 centres) in the country on Sunday with 92.63% and 93.5% attendance in two slots - morning and afternoon, respectively.

In Karnataka, of the 22,347 students who had registered, 21,108 students attended the exams taking the State's attendance to 94% in each session. The State had 71 examination centres out of which 29 were in Bengaluru.

Students coming out after writing the COMEDK test at BNM Institute of Technology in Bengaluru on Sunday. •BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

COMEDK authorities reported that although some students expressed anxiety and held protests in some parts of the country before the exam, it was conducted in a smooth manner and as per schedule. "The exam was conducted keeping in view all guidelines related to COVID-19, with support from all authorities concerned. The sessions were conducted with all social distancing norms and all protocols in place. The operating procedures were prominently placed in the websites, SMSes and emails were sent to students as well," said S. Kumar, Executive Secretary, COMEDK, in a press release.

Important dates

- June 22: Provisional answers keys with forms for challenging the said answer keys
- June 30: Final answer key will be made available
- July 5: Score cards will be made available to candidates in their applicant logins

The release also said that one person who attempted impersonation was identified in one of the centres and was sent out without being allowed to take the examination.

On the day of the exam, students in Bengaluru said that even though they were nervous, they were excited. Most of them were also planning to take the JEE after finishing COMEDK. "I prepared for this exam the same way I did for the CET exam. I found a few topics from every subject difficult, and prepared from the prescribed textbooks," said Aditya, who took his exam at Global Academy of Technology.

Another student at the same centre, Bhaskar, said that he had always been home schooled and even prepared for the COMEDK on his own. "I prepared from NCERT textbooks, but physics was quite easy for me. Since I am weak in Chemistry, it felt a little tough for me. I plan on sitting for the JEE Mains after this."

"The exam was as we had expected it to be. At the end of the day, it is a competitive exam and the questions are meant to be tricky," said Meghana M.B., student at Jain PU College centered at BNMIT. Two students at the same centre found that for one question in chemistry, the choices which were provided were repeatedly similar.

Body of youth washed away in rajakaluve found

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The body of the youth who was washed away in a rajakaluve in spate in Gayatri Layout during the rains on Friday night was recovered downstream on Sunday morning.

A rescue official said the body of Mithun Kumar, 28, was found in the rajakaluve near Cambridge College, around 1.5 km downstream from the spot where he fell into the drain and was washed away. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams that began their search and rescue operations on Saturday morning had covered a stretch of the drain leading to the nearby Seegehalli lake where the operations were halted Saturday night. Resuming the same on Sunday, rescuers took a different route and found the body stuck among weeds and vegetation in the drain 1.5 km away.

Mithun Kumar, from Shivamogga district, and working as a civil engineer in the city, was living in a rented accommodation adjoining the drain in Gayatri Layout. On Friday night, around 11 p.m., as water from the adjoining areas was flowing on the road, Mithun's bike parked at the edge of the drain was about to fall into the drain. In his attempt to prevent this, he fell into the drain with the bike. His friends couldn't lift him and he was washed away. Mithun's body was handed over to his family after an autopsy on Sunday.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the family of the deceased.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 20, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- How VR/AR devices are the key to virtual reality bit.ly/virtualblur
- How India pushed its interests at the World Trade Organization's 12th Ministerial Conference bit.ly/tradeinterests
- This week's Know your English column bit.ly/3zKYE
- An in-depth explainer on the 5G spectrum auctions bit.ly/auction5g
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.*

BMRCL launches U Girder for the first time on ORR-Airport metro line

Officials said that use of the U Girder on this line will help in expediting the project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has launched the first ever U Girder on the ORR-Airport line. The first U Girder span was placed between two pillars near Bagmane Tech Park on Saturday night.

BMRCL officials said that use of the U Girder on this line will help in expediting the project. In phase I and phase II of the project, the BMRCL had used a box girder to build the elevated corridor. Earlier, to place ten segments of the box girder, the BMRCL needed 5 to 6 days even with the help of huge cranes. But now, the single span of the U girder can be erected overnight.

Zakir Hussain, chief engineer, BMRCL, said, "U girders will involve casting the entire span of a viaduct between two piers in a single piece, whereas box girders will have many segments between two piers. One U girder between two pillars can be erected overnight, against 6 to 7 days in case of segmental construction. The weight of a complete span of U girder is much lesser than the segmental box girder."

The U Girder on the ORR-Airport line placed on pillars near Bagmane Tech Park. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The BMRCL is building a 58 km ORR-Airport metro line from the Central Silk Board to Airport via K.R. Puram, Nagawara and Hebbal. Between Central Silk Board and K.R. Puram, the BMRCL is implementing the project in two packages. The official said that between Silk Board to Kodibeesanahalli, 35 piers have come up and 15 have come up from Kodibeesanahalli to K. R. Puram. He said six more U girders will be erected in the coming days.

Anjum Parwez, MD, BMRCL, said the use of U girders will help in expediting the project. "A single span of 24 m can be launched overnight, whereas erecting the box girder with the help of the launcher was a tedious process. Earlier, heavy machines were at the construction sites to erect the segments of box girders. This is not the case now. It takes time for construction of piers, but U girders will be saving a lot of time. We are hoping that this will help in timely completion of the project."

The BMRCL had set 2024 as the deadline to complete the construction work between Silk Board and K.R. Puram. The official added that already 40 U - girder spans are ready at the yard. The BMRCL is coordinating with the city traffic police while transporting the span as traffic diversion is required.

Six bypasses to help decongest traffic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that construction of six bypasses between Bengaluru and Mysuru, as part of the ongoing expressway project, will help in reducing traffic congestion at several stretches.

The Minister, in a series of tweets on the expressway project, said that the six bypasses on the stretch will help motorists near Bidadi, Ramanagaram, Channarayapatna, Maddur, Mandya and Srirangapatna for an aggregate length of 51 km. He said that once the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway project was complete, the present travel time of three hours would reduce to 90 minutes. However, in March, the Minister, in a tweet, had said that the travel time will be reduced to 75 minutes.

A deadline of October, 2022, has been set to complete the expressway project. The project is being implemented in two packages: the first one from Panchamukhi Temple Junction in Bengaluru south zone that ends near Nidgatta and another from Nidagatta to Mysuru.

Three drown in tank in Kadur taluk

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Three boys of a group of six who had gone for a swim drowned in a tank at Bittenahalli near Singatagere in Kadur taluk on Sunday.

The Fire and Emergency staff from Kadur reached the spot and retrieved the bodies. The deceased have been identified as Darshan, 16, Rakesh, 18, and Kiran, 20. The incident happened around 2 p.m. Shashidhar K.P., District Fire Officer of Chikkamagaluru, said the tank was almost empty, except a portion, where the boys had gone to swim.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 16/MYS/2022 Date: 13.06.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I:** Ashokapuram: Proposed Connecting Road No.4.5 to Main line at CMNR End. **Sub Work-I(a):** S&T Accommodation at AP station (Relay room and Panel room). **Sub Work-II:** Requirement of Additional work for AP Yard Remodeling. **Sub Work-II(a):** Ashokapuram: Proposed construction of New PF between Road 5 & 6 for a length of 540 mts. **Sub Work-II(b):** Ashokapuram: Provision of IRS PF shelter of 16.0m x 9.45 m wide, 8 bays between Road 5 & 6. **Sub Work-II(c):** Ashokapuram: Provision of drinking cistern with 4 water taps at PF No.2 (2 Nos).**Sub Work-II(d):** Ashokapuram: Provision of water Hydrant on Road 4 & 5 and 6 & 7. **Sub Work-II(e):** Ashokapuram: Construction of Store room and 1 Staff rooms of 16.4m x 4.5m for PFTR activity. **Sub Work-II(f):** Ashokapuram: Construction of compound wall. **Sub Work-II(g):** Ashokapuram: Construction of side Drain. **Sub Work-II(h):** Retaining wall at AP yard (80x4.5m). **Sub Work-III-** Extension of PF 1 & 2 & 3 at AP to accommodate 24+1 ICF Coaches. **Sub Work-III(a):** Ashokapuram: Extension of PF No. 1 for a length of 87.5meters. **Sub Work-III (b):** Ashokapuram: Extension of PF No. 2 & 3 for a length of 57.5meters. **Sub Work-IV:** Ashokapuram: Extension of FOB.	Rs. 7,70,37,562/-
2	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone A (Mysuru Heritage station and Divisional Office).	Rs. 1,35,80,000/-
3	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone A-2 (Mysuru (incl) - Chamarajanagar section).	Rs. 1,88,80,000/-
4	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone A-3 (AP colonies).	Rs. 72,80,000/-
5	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone A-5 (Mysuru (excl) – Arsikere (excl.) section).	Rs. 90,80,000/-
6	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone A-6 (Hassan excl.) to- Padil (excl) and Zone A-7 (Sakaleshpur - Subramanya road section).	Rs.2,25,00,000/-
7	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone A-1 (Mysuru Railway colonies and hospitals).	Rs. 2,25,00,000/-
8	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone A-4 (Mysuru (excl) to Yeliyur (excl) section.	Rs. 90,00,000/-
9	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone B-1 RRB (Excl) - TLGP and DRU (Excl) to CMGR Section under ADEN/SMET.	Rs. 2,25,00,000/-
10	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone B-2 SPGR (Excl)- RRB (Incl) Section under ADEN/ASK.	Rs. 1,35,00,000/-
11	Zonal contract for contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone B-4 (Birur (excl) to Chickjajur(incl) and Zone B-7 Chickjajur to Rayadurga (excl).	Rs. 1,80,00,000/-
12	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials including supply of cement and steel for the period from 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2023 in Zone B-5 (Chikjajur (Excl) - Kargji (Excl) and Zone B-6 (Kottur (Excl) - Amaravathi section)	Rs. 2,25,00,000/-
13	ADEN/SKLR Sub division: - Repairs to Catch water drain and garland drains, Strengthening of RR Masonry walls and Repairs to side drains and Felling of vulnerable trees on cutting and pruning of tree branches adjacent to Railway track in SKLR-SBHR ghat section.	Rs. 2,27,68,051/-

Last Date of Submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. on 05.07.2022**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

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I **KAGITALA** Susruth have lost my original 2nd semester grade card of Btech (2017 – 18) with Roll no. B170959PE(National institute of technology calicut) . If Found Please Contact: 9494489289.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT V ADDITIONAL FIRST CIVILJUDGE (Jr. Div.) AT MYSURU
O.S. No. 397/2018
Between:
ICICI Bank Ltd.
Having its Registered Office at ICIC Bank Towers, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007 ...Plaintiff
and
1st Floor,
Deeskha Setty Mansion
Rama Vilasa Road, Mysuru-16
Represented by its Authorised Representative Amar Jinde
And
Mahadeva. V ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Mahadeva. V
S/o. Vemalata Boyi.
Aged 51 years
R/a: #34, 2nd Stage< HUDCO Bannimantap
Mysuru- 570015
Whereas the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of **Rs.2,79,807.54/-** (as on 18/11/2017) along with interest at 18% p.a. and other consequential reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the **22/07/2022** at **11:00 A.M.** take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this court, this **18 day of June 2022**
5th Addnl. First Civil Judge, Jr. Div. Civil Court Complex, Mysuru
Apoorvananda K,
MIG 32, Ground Floor,
Nrupathunga Road,
Kuvempunagar, Mysuru

REAL ESTATE

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **TABREZ** Alam Ghouse, S/o Khazi Sharif Ghouse, R/at No.27/1, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Kenchappa Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005, have changed my name from Tabrez Alam Ghouse to Tabrez Alam vide affidavit dated 18/06/2022 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Court of the Senior Civil Judge, Kovvur, W.G.Dt., A.P
O.S. No. 7/2016
Between:
Simhadri Dharmavathar ...**Plaintiff**
AND
Gode Francis Xavier (died)
Smt. Nerella Raja Rajeswari and others ...**Defendants**
To:
5th Defendant: Gode Kranthi, D/o. late Francis Xavier, Presently residing at Bangalore, Karnataka State.
7th Defendant: Gode Keerthi, D/o. late Francis Xavier, Presently residing at Bangalore, Karnataka State.
NOTICE
In the above suit proceedings launched by the plaintiff, even the summons sent to the above mentioned 5 & 6th defendants were avoiding by them to receive and returning, as such the above Hon'ble court ordered to service the summons by way of publication in news paper and posted the matter to **06-07-2022** for your appearance. As such you should appear before the above Hon'ble court, either in person or through your Advocate for that above adjournment **at 10.30 A.M** for submit your pleadings/ objections, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence by the above Hon'ble court.
Date of Hearing: 06-07-2022
(issued as per court orders)
P.V.V.SATYANARAYANA
Advocate, Darsipamu
Pentapadu Mandal, Pin:534166
Kovvur W.G.Dt., (AP), Cell:9346613014
Dated:29-05-2022 9701355773

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BENGALURU-560058, LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (LCMG)
Phone: (080)-28392310 - Ext, 22685086, 5087, 5094, 5088

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following works:

Name of Work : NIT NO & Date: Rate Contract for carrying out various structural steel works at LEOS , Aryabhata, Guest House and ISRAD Campus, LEOS, Peenya, Bangalore-58. **E-Tender Notice No**: CMG/LEOS/2022-23/LMN-08 Dtd:17.06.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender in: Rs.14.15 Lakhs & EMD Rs: 28,308/-. Period of Completion in months**: 06 months. Tender document can be downloaded from: **Opening date: 20.06.2022. Closing date: 04.07.2022**.

Name of Work : NIT NO & Date: Procurement of Electrical Installation for upgrading augmenting electrical system of LEOS, Aryabhata Campus - Providing diesel bunk & pipe line in Aryabhata Campus - (Civil works).
E-Tender Notice No: LEOS/CMG/EW-03(P2)/2022-23 Dtd:17.06.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender in: Rs.6.55 Lakhs & EMD Rs: 13,096/-. Period of Completion in months**: 02 months. Tender document can be downloaded from: **Opening date: 20.06.2022. Closing date: 29.06.2022**.

Name of Work : NIT NO & Date: Rate Contract for providing Earthing at LEOS Campus, Aryabhata & New optics production area (formerly ISRAD building) Peenya, Bengaluru-58. **E-Tender Notice No**: LEOS/CMG/EW-05/2022-23 Dtd:17.06.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender in: Rs.6.55 Lakhs & EMD Rs: 13,100/-. Period of Completion in months**: 12 months. Tender document can be downloaded from: **Opening date: 20.06.2022. Closing date: 04.07.2022**.

Name of Work : NIT NO & Date: Providing maintenance free earth electrode for ESD earthing at LEOS Campuses, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. **E-Tender Notice No**: LEOS/CMG/EW-02/2022-23 Dtd:17.06.2022. **Estimated cost put to tender in: Rs.5.10 Lakhs & EMD Rs: 10,200/-. Period of Completion in months**: 02 months. Tender document can be downloaded from: **Opening date: 20.06.2022. Closing date: 04.07.2022**.

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed **Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET)** for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

-SD
GROUP HEAD, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Public Works (Tribal) Division
Chandrapur
E Tender Notice No.12/2022-23

Online E -Tenders of Percntage Rate in B-1 Form for the following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works (Tribal) Division, Civil Line, Chandrapur-442401 (Phone No.07172-270842, Email:: eetribal.chandrapur@gmail.com) On Behalf of Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra from Company / Contractor who Registered in Triblal Development Departments. Document available and downloaded from Government website (https://mahatenders.gov.in) Right to reject any or all tender is reserved by the competant authority. Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost put to tender in Lacs	Class of Contractor	Bid Security in Lacs	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion (in days)
1	Construction of EMRS Residential School at Chamorshi, Taluka Chamorshi, District Gadchiroli	1132.62	Class I-C & above	5.66	3540/-	300 days
2	Construction of Multipurpose Complex for Madia Gond Tribes in PVTG at Zinganoor, Taluka Sironcha, District Gadchiroli	1186.92	Class I-C & above	5.93	3540/-	390 days

E-Tender Schedule

Tender Document Sale Period	As per Website E-Tender Schedule
Pre Tender Conference	As per Website E-Tender Schedule
Bid Opening	As per Website E-Tender Schedule

Further Information of Above e-Tender available At Following link
1.(https://mahatenders.gov.in)
2.(Any Change in related Tender Notice will be mentioned at above web site)
3.Notice Board at Office Of Executive Engineer Public Works(Tribal) Division, Chandrapur-442401.

(Varsha Ghushe)
Executive Engineer,
Public Works (Tribal) Division
Chandrapur

DGIPR/2022/2023/1354

CACHE

Mixed reality has a blurred vision

VR headsets can potentially dethrone smartphones as the go to devices to connect and communicate

JOHN XAVIER

THE GIST

- In 2016, Google attempted to corner a share of the market with its Cardboard headset. However, it could not make the leap to a consumer headset as the smartphone used to power these experiences was limited. 3D apps drained battery and the units were not easy to set up.
- Microsoft launched its augmented reality headset back in 2015. The industry-defining HoloLens headsets had a self-contained computer with a CPU, a GPU, and a hologram processor.
- According to a report by *The Wall Street Journal*, nearly 100 people from the mixed reality department left Microsoft within a year. The talent exodus has dealt a blow to Microsoft's vision of a mixed reality, making it reroute resources and people at a time when the market for AR/VR is heating up.

You must be in a different world if you have not heard of the metaverse yet. The word became popular after Facebook renamed itself as Meta last year, and said it would invest $10 billion to build a digital land for people to interact and socialise. Facebook is not the only company charting a course to make a name for itself in the digital world. Google and Microsoft are all putting their teams to build a yet-to-be fully understood online space.

Tech titans are busy building hardware and developing software for digital avatars of real people to interact and socialise. Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) headsets are therefore, one of the important cogs in this online fantasy land. VR/AR devices are the keys to unlock passage into the digital land. These gadgets take people into the virtual world to meet and greet each other. And some early movers failed to usher in a VR era without these gadgets.

Cardboard lessons

In 2016, Google attempted to corner a share of the market with its Cardboard headset. The disposable spectacle shells allowed users to slide their smartphones into them for short VR experiences. Though the search giant shipped millions of devices to customers for free, it could not make the leap to a consumer headset. Part of the problem was the smartphone used to power these experiences. The phone's ability to provide immersive on-the-go experiences were limited as 3D apps drained battery and the units were not easy to set up. At this point, stand-alone VR headsets like Oculus Rift and HTC Vive were providing much better user experiences for a few hundred dollars.

According to market intelligence firm IDC, Facebook's Oculus Quest 2 is the most popular VR device with 78% share of the AR/VR market in 2021. Nearly 9.4 million VR headsets were sold last year, a number that could rise to 13.6 million by the end of this year. The headsets Meta makes cater to individual consumers and are specifically designed for the metaverse that CEO Mark Zuckerberg has envisioned. Not all companies are interested in the retail consumer market where VR will be primarily used for gaming.

Microsoft's VR universe

At the other end of the mixed reality market is Microsoft. The Window software maker unveiled its augmented reality headset back in 2015 with a $3,000 price tag, an expensive piece of gadget. The Richmond-headquartered company targets enterprise customers to sell its VR gadgets. The industry-defining HoloLens headsets were described at that time of launch as "the most advanced holographic computer the world has ever seen." The device had a self-contained computer with a CPU, a GPU (graphics processing unit), and a hologram processor. It also enabled spatial sound so people could hear holograms from behind them. Complete with a dark visor, the headsets could sense movement and the user's immediate surrounding.

HoloLens was several notches above Google Glass, which was similar to Microsoft's device but suffered from a slow hardware and patchy application ecosystem

HoloLens was several notches above Google Glass, which was similar to Microsoft's device but suffered from a slow hardware and patchy application ecosystem.

Three years after the launch, Microsoft signed a $480 million deal with the U.S. Army to sell customised HoloLens, called Integrated Visual Augmented System (IVAS). The headset augmented the view of a user by overlaying digital objects on top of the real world. In 2021, Microsoft bagged another large contract with the same government agency. This time around, it would sell over 1,20,000 HoloLens headsets in a deal worth more than $20 billion over a period of 10 years.

Leadership shakeup and talent wars

A year on, the software giant is bleeding talent in its augmented reality division. According to a report by *The Wall Street Journal*, nearly 100 people from the mixed reality department left the company within a year. Most of them moved to Meta Platforms to build its products for the metaverse.

If that wasn't enough, the brain behind the HoloLens at Microsoft and the creator of the Kinect camera, Alex Kipman, has resigned following allegations of sexual harassment and verbal abuse. Microsoft developed its industry-defining HoloLens under Kipman's leadership. The headset became the go to device for engineers to run their mixed reality projects. Several companies used the device to train their employees; in some cases, medical students used them to immerse themselves in clinical procedures. Now, as Kipman leaves the company, its entire mixed reality division is undergoing a reorganisation, according to an internal memo obtained by *GeekWire*.

The talent exodus and the organisational rejig has dealt a blow to Microsoft's vision of a mixed reality, making it reroute resources and people at a time when the market for AR/VR is heating up. Some have also pointed out Microsoft's plans to partner with Samsung to build its VR gadget as possible reason for a churn within the mixed reality division.

VR headsets can potentially dethrone smartphones as the go to devices to connect and communicate. But companies building VR hardware and software are catering to different class of users – some to other businesses, others to individual consumers. Firms are also facing a talent crunch as rivals poach people to build their own products.

The path to a VR future looks blurred for now.

THE DAILY QUIZ

June 19 was celebrated as Father's Day. Here is a quiz on some famous fathers in fiction

1 Who is the father of Shakespeare's Cordelia, Goneril and Regan?

2 "It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived." Who is this father from a famous book?

3 This father in a Jane Austen novel says: "Let me not have the grief of seeing you unable to respect your partner in life". We are never told his first name. Who is he?

4 This father screws the caps on to toothpaste tubes. He loses his job. Who is this father who appears in two novels by the same author?

5 Boromir and Faramir are two brothers who fight to protect Gondor. What was the title of their father, Denethor?

6 In this book, Baba treats his son Amir and his servant's son Hassan the same way. Later in life, Amir learns something big that he did not know about his Baba. Which book is this, which the author has often described as a father-son story and which has the famous line: "For you, a thousand times over"?

Compiled by: Radhika Santhanam

◄ The man in this still from a famous film grows close to a little girl who reminds him of his own daughter back home. What is the name of the film, which is based a short story?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the July 17 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The red in the Icelandic flag stands for this. **Ans: Fire/Lava because of its numerous volcanoes**
2. This was first attributed to Vigdís Finnbogadóttir who served as the President of Iceland from 1980 to 1996. **Ans: She is the world's first democratically elected woman President**
3. The name of Iceland's capital. **Ans: Reykjavík**
4. The Althingi is considered the oldest of this kind of institution in the world. **Ans: Parliament**
5. The Imagine Peace Tower in Kollafjorour Bay was installed in 2007 by the widow of this legendary man of music. **Ans: John Lennon. His wife Yoko Ono installed this tower after his death**
6. The feature one associates with places ending in '-foss'. **Ans: Waterfalls**
Visual: This American beat a Russian in this match in 1972. **Ans: Bobby Fischer, who beat Boris Spassky to win the World chess crown**

Early Birds: Srijan Patra| Upaakti Dahraan| Richa Jainer| Parveen Rewri| Vidhiksha Patel

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Haven't got a bean on me

When it comes to vocabulory, we sure do know our onions

S. UPENDRAN

"Hey, come on in! How have you been? How is the hunt for the new house coming along? Has your dad found anything?"

"Wow! So many questions! What's got into you?"

"I was interviewing a whole bunch of candidates yesterday, and I guess..."

"Interviews! That explains all the questions, I guess. Anyway, we still haven't found the kind of house we're looking for. My mother is very particular."

"Maybe you should consult Mayank. When it comes to real estate, he knows his onions."

"Knows his onions? We're not interested in onions, we're interested in houses!"

"I know! When you say that someone knows his onions about something, what you're suggesting is that he knows a lot about the subject matter."

"In other words, he's very knowledgeable about it."

"Exactly! It's an expression mostly used in informal contexts. When it comes to old Hindi and Tamil songs, Sheela certainly knows her onions."

"She certainly does. Her brother, Ram, knows nothing about movie songs. But he certainly knows his onions when it comes to computers."

"He certainly does. Now then, would you like me to call Mayank and ask him about..."

"Not right now! Hey, weren't you planning to buy a house last year? Why don't you and ...."

"Dropped the idea about six months ago. I don't have a bean on me right now."

"Don't have a bean? Does it mean you don't have money?"

"Very good! When you say that you don't have a bean, what you're suggesting is that you have little or no money. This rather old fashioned expression is mostly used in informal contexts in British English."

"So, what you're suggesting is that you don't have enough money to buy even beans."

"No, no! The bean in the expression doesn't refer to the vegetable that we eat. In this context, it refers to a coin. A century or two ago, the sovereign or the guinea was referred to as 'bean'."

"I see. I've always been careful with money. Growing up, we didn't have a bean."

"That's a good example. Ram was a millionaire. But after his divorce, he was left with no bean."

"That happens to a lot of people. Sorry, I'm in no position to lend you money. I haven't got a bean."

"That's what some of the candidates said in their interview."

"Really? Did you find any candidate who knew his onions when it came to management?"

"Not really! Though they didn't know their onions when it came to topics related to management, I had a lot of fun interviewing them. Quite a few were full of beans."

"Beans again! What is it with you and vegetables today? Is the expression 'full of beans' used with people who are really intelligent or have a lot of money?"

"Not necessarily. The informal expression is usually used to refer to someone who is very lively. Someone who is full of energy."

"I see. How about this example? On their birthday, the twins burst into their parents' bedroom full of beans."

"They probably wanted their presents. The expression also carries with it the sense 'to be in high spirits'. When the final exam got over, the students were full of beans."

"I need my morning coffee. Before that, I'm seldom full of beans."

"Same here."

Life is like an onion: you peel off layer after layer, and then you find there's nothing in it.
-James Huneker

upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Ahead of PM's visit, many educational institutions declare holiday

While some were directed to remain closed by the Education Dept., some others took the call on their own keeping security concerns and the traffic situation in mind

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Many educational institutions will be closed on Monday on account of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru. While some have been directed to remain closed by the Education Department, some took the call on their own keeping security concerns and the traffic situation in mind.

A holiday has been declared on Monday for all the students and teaching and non-teaching faculty members of the Jnanabharathi campus of Bangalore University (BU) as the PM will inaugurate Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School Economics (BASE).

The Education Department has also declared a one-day holiday to a total of 22 schools along the routes that will be taken by the Prime Minister. The holiday on Monday has been announced for the staff and students of all the government, aided and private primary and high schools from Kengeri Upanagara to Kommaghatta and within the wards of Pattanagere, Jnanabharathi and Kumbalagodu cluster. The circular says that the compensation for this holiday can be balanced on one of the other holidays in the coming days.

On Saturday, BU had also announced holidays for 64 UG and PG colleges which come under its ambit on June 20 citing possible traffic jams and other security reasons in the backdrop of Modi's visit. Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwathnarayan also said on Twitter, "As PM Narendra Modi is coming to Bengaluru for a number of programmes, holidays have been announced for select colleges in the city in view of traffic congestion and his security."

While the government has announced the holiday for select institutions, some private schools in and around Kengeri and Mysuru Road have declared holidays by themselves, expecting traffic snarls in that part of the city.

"Dear parents, Due to PM Narendra Modi's visit tomorrow and official programs in and around Kengeri, there will be no movement of public transport. Hence, all classes from 1-12 will stay suspended on June 20. It will be compensated soon," stated a message sent to parents from a private school in Kengeri.

DKS questions need for holiday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday questioned the need for a holiday being declared for educational institutions in the city during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.

"Holiday has been given to educational institutions that are on the way mapped for Mr. Modi's travel. Why should the holiday be declared? Are our students terrorists? Will they indulge in violence? Karnataka's students don't have that culture," he told reporters here on Sunday. "The Prime Minister will come and go. Provide adequate security. Should they participate in the road show." He said, "When the PM comes here to do yoga, let him use it for politics. Why should students be suspected? The government in that way is accepting that it had committed a fault."

Kannada activists blacken Hindi flex boards along Mysuru Road

Activists painting banners with Hindi words black on Mysuru Road. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All such illegal boards on Mysuru Road will be removed, says BBMP

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Kannada activists from Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) blackened several flex boards on Mysuru Road welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they were in Hindi. The flex boards indicated they were put up by the Horticulture Minister and Rajarajeshwarinagar (RR) MLA Munirathna's supporters.

R.R. Nagar police rushed to the spot and detained the group. Dharmaraj Gowda, president, KRV Youth Wing, who led the agitation, criticised "a Karnataka Minister putting up flex boards completely in Hindi, without a word of Kannada" to welcome the PM. "We will not tolerate such slavery to Hindi by our representatives or any such imposition of Hindi. The police did not allow us to blacken all the flex boards put up on Mysuru Road. However, a team of our activists has gone on a convoy of bikes all the way up to Mysuru and will blacken all flex boards in Hindi," he said.

Meanwhile, the incident has raised questions over flex boards and BJP party flags that have adorned not only Mysuru Road, but other areas of the city wherever Mr. Modi will be visiting on Monday. Almost every Namma Metro pillar on Mysuru Road, where he will preside over two events has been adorned by flex boards welcoming him in the name of Ministers and has the face of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai also displayed prominently.

It can be recalled that the CM had recently taken objection to flex boards welcoming him for an event to inaugurate development works in R.R. Nagar, also presided over by Mr. Munirathna. He had instructed civic officials from the stage to remove all flexes and banners and ensure they do not come up in the city anymore. Following this, Deepak R.L., Special Commissioner (Revenue), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), had recently said while penal action of booking cases would follow, the civic body had decided to collect the costs of removing these flex boards and banners from the person in whose name they had been put up illegally.

Despite repeated attempts, Mr. Munirathna was not available for comment. Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said that action will be taken as per law. Dr. Nagaraj, Joint Commissioner, R. R. Nagar Zone, BBMP, said all flex boards and flags that had come up illegally would be removed by Monday morning.

The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling in State from June 25

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2022 Karnataka will be held at 10 locations in nine cities in June and July. The event will cover educational topics like CET, COMEDK, NEET, general education (offbeat courses), Law, Pure Science, Arts, Science & Commerce, Management, PGDM, Engineering & Medicine. The event sets a benchmark in educational and professional guidance. It acts as a platform to connect students and parents with speakers and educational institutions.

The event also helps students to take the right decisions after getting the necessary counselling and guidance.

Platinum Sponsor for the event is Presidency University, Bangalore Silver Sponsors for the event are: ACS College of Engineering, Bangalore; K. S. Group of Institutions, Bangalore; Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Bangalore; Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumkur; Soundarya Institute of Management and Science, Bangalore; Universal Group of Institutions, Bangalore, Atria Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and TAPMI, a unit of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bangalore.

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THE HINDU EDUCATION PLUS CAREER COUNSELLING 2022 KARNATAKA

To pre register for the event & STEP test scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3N2Sy2F

Schedule

Place	Date
Bengaluru North	June 25
Mangaluru	June 25
Kalaburagi	June 25
Tumakuru	June 26
Bidar	June 26
Bengaluru South	July 2
Hubballi	July 2
Ballari	July 3
Mysuru	July 3
Davangere	July 3

Timings and details

The timings for registration is between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For more details about the event, contact following mobile numbers: 9739273958 / 9448160126 / 9448871815

Entry for the event is free. First 300 walk-ins will get a surprise gift. All participating students will get free English proficiency test, STEP.

Nigerian man arrested

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Sleuths from Central Crime Branch (CCB) raided a house, arrested a drug peddler and recovered narcotics worth ₹15 lakh from him.

The arrested has been identified as John Nero, a Nigerian national and a resident of Vidyaranyapura. The police recovered 8 g of MDMA crystals, an electronic weighing scale, a car and two mobile phones from him.

He came to India eight years ago on a student visa, but overstayed and has been peddling drugs. He used to buy them at a cheaper rate from his contacts and sell a gram of MDMA at the cost of ₹5,000 to ₹6,000.

IN BRIEF

Six held for illegal transportation of ivory

MANGALURU

The Puttur Range Forest personnel on Saturday arrested six persons from Tamil Nadu and Kerala for alleged illegal transporation of ivory. While checking vehicles near Mahaveer Hospital Junction, off the Mani Mysuru Bypass road, they found two ivory pieces in a vehicle registered in Tamil Nadu. The total value of ivory and of the vehicle is ₹5 lakh.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 20
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 00:00 SET 11:40
TUESDAY, JUN. 21
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 00:19 SET 12:32
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 22
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 00:57 SET 13:21

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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Students and the science of FEEDBACK

Feedback for students should be constructive, positive, and timely to augment the interlinked, symbiotic relationship between learning and teaching.

■ VINAY SINGH

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For students, feedback comprises an integral part of effective learning. Whether in college or school, the principles of using feedback to facilitate better learning remain the same.

Not only does it help students understand subjects better, but also guides them on how they can improve learning skills.

Educationists believe that academic feedback is more strongly and reliably linked to achievements compared to other teaching modalities. Moreover, it can enhance a student's self-awareness, self-confidence, and eagerness to learn and be extremely useful in the choices of higher education and beyond.

Boosting learning outcomes

Significantly, effective feedback during the first year in university can facilitate their transition to higher education and beyond, simultaneously supporting student retention. However, students must accept and assimilate it to augment their learning and boost assessment outcomes.

While educators should explain what has been done correctly and incorrectly, the focus must be on what is being done right. By providing the latest information about students' grasp of theories, facts, or the achievement of a specific skill, feedback improves the ability of professors to teach as per the requirements of the situation.

Although feedback can be formal or informal, one must not forget that, consciously and unconsciously, professors provide immediate feedback in their classes. In most instances, this happens via gestures, facial expressions, and comments. Whether formal or informal, faculty must ensure that feedback provided in class is always constructive and solution-oriented. Harsh or negative feedback will be counterintuitive and defeat the common cause of ensuring students perform well in academics and higher educational pursuits as well as professional careers.

Additionally, merely giving feedback isn't enough. To enhance its effectiveness, it should be treated as a dialogue between the faculty and students. n this way, there will be opportunities for tutors to bridge the gap between the current and expected performance.

Accordingly, professors should take note of how students react when given feedback before others in the classroom. Besides comprehending the immediate reaction, this will help assess whether the student is reflecting on the message conveyed and then works as per the feedback.

Where informal feedback is concerned, it is instant and, often, more effective. For example, professors may amble across the class and, standing by a student's desk, comment about his/her work. In this manner, students could be commended for good work and offered immediate suggestions for further improvement.

Conversely, grading every assignment can be counterproductive as students tend to compare themselves with classmates instead of focussing on their work and ways to improve it. Marks or grades must only be given during formal assessment.

Research has shown that students progress more when feedback is received via comments rather than grades.

Not surprisingly, the degree of motivation and achievement remained higher in students who only received comments as feedback, unlike those given grades. Therefore, in the case of slow learners particularly, it is best to offer feedback via positive comments only as their already-low self-esteem may fall further if negative/harsh words are used.

Feedback on feedback

Considering the key role of feedback, it is sometimes said that professors must be given more feedback on feedback. Various student surveys across the globe show that they feel feedback is inadequate and not timely. However, teachers assert students don't heed their advice.

So, where does this leave the feedback process, especially from the students' perspective? The best option is for professors to reconsider the process of providing feedback and customising their teaching modalities going by students' valid feedback.

Additionally, merely giving feedback isn't enough. To enhance its effectiveness, it should be treated as a dialogue between the faculty and students. In this way, there will be opportunities for tutors to bridge the gap between the current and expected performance. This can be achieved by redoing the assignment and ensuring improved work that meets the expected standards, clarifying that the faculty's feedback is effective.

Ultimately, teaching and learning can become a truly symbiotic relationship, benefitting both students and tutors while providing more productive outcomes for all stakeholders.

The author is Executive Director and CEO, Thomson Digital

Santamonica Study Abroad Private Limited and *The Hindu Education Plus* jointly present The Study Abroad webinar on 'Fly to find your dream college".

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Other speakers are

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Sobitha Thomas, Project Manager, the U.K.;

Reshmi Mohadas, Assistant Co-ordinator, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland;

Ashitha Sudhakar, Assistant Co-ordinator, Europe.

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Last date for submission of online application: **18.07.2022 (Monday)**

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Date of Interview

11.08.2022 (Thursday) Afternoon & 12.08.2022 (Friday)

Time slot details will be intimated by email in due course.

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Explore all options

Uncertain about your career options? This career counselling column may help

OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAN

I am in class 10 and my dream is to be a doctor. But, my family doesn't want me to attempt BiPC and crack the NEET as they feel I have to study for a long time and the earnings are also not good. They want me to take MPC and pursue Engineering. How can I fix this? - Anushree

Dear Anushree,

Getting a professional personality profile done might help you. Should your aptitude, attitude, interests, skill-set, and traits be more aligned to being a doctor than an engineer, you can pursue your case with your parents. There is no point doing a professional course when your heart is not in it. Take your time and see if there are options in engineering that could perhaps interest you. If not, stay firm and assert your choice.

I am a 21-year-old final-year M.A. Broadcast Journalism student. I am also studying French and hold an A2 diploma. I wish to start a career utilising both my communication and French language skills. What are my options? I am also planning to take the Assistant Public Relations Officer exam. How should I prepare? - Sansriti

Dear Sansriti,

You can explore options across news channels as a TV anchor, a news writer, a correspondent, a production executive, a feature producer, or a video journalist across TV, radio and the Internet in English and French. You could start an exclusive YouTube channel. Check out French companies that have this need, and Alliance Francaise too, on job opportunities that can be explored locally and/or in France. Investigation, research programmes, documentaries and other factual shows are options too.

For the PRO exam, make sure you are familiar with the eligibility criteria, syllabus and the exam pattern. Work out past papers and prepare a study timetable and follow it religiously. Take regular mock tests for time-management and to familiarise yourself with content and exam pattern. Don't forget to eat healthy and sleep well so that you can perform well.

I have completed my B.Sc. Physics with 8.4 CGPA and am currently preparing for the competitive exams. However, I am interested in teaching and want to pursue M.Sc. Physics with B.Ed. My parents' financial condition is not good. Will this be a correct decision? - Roshan

Dear Roshan,

Keep preparing for the competitive exams but do not lose sight of the M.Sc. admissions. You must have a steady Plan B in place and can always apply for a student loan. Fortunately, this course doesn't cost a lot compared to other specialised Master's programmes.

I am in class 11 and am preparing for CLAT 2023. I find it difficult and tiring to cope with school work and coaching. How can I handle this? - Palak

Dear Palak,

CLAT coaching can be pretty demanding. Ensure that you stay connected with coaching classes and try not to let work pile up. Stay realistic in terms of what is achievable in a day and commit to doing that to the best of your ability. You will need to get your act together and Work on time-management techniques as you move to class 12. Use a to-do list to identify and prioritise urgent tasks and schedule realistic timeframes to prioritise and complete them. Be aware and mindful of activities that are time stealers and reduce time spent on gadgets and social media. Eat well, get plenty of rest and have some fun and exercise every day!

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

LABEL TAG

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Courtesy: buddy4study.com

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IBCA opens admissions

The Institute of Baking and Culinary Arts has opened admissions for various courses.
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VES College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous) has opened admissions for its two new Autonomous courses B.Sc. in Data Science and Data Analytics and M.A. in Public Policy and Administration.
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Call for Change

U&I, an after-school education programme for underserved children, has launched a campaign called India's Call for Change. This offers change-makers across 49 cities the accessibility, flexibility and the opportunity to impact 3000+ underserved children.
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Narendra Modi arriving today on a two-day visit to Karnataka

Highlight of the trip is his participation in the Yoga Day function in Mysuru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In what is expected to galvanise the BJP cadre in an election year, the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday for a hectic two-day visit to Karnataka, after about two years, is being keenly watched.

The highlight of the trip is his participation in the International Day of Yoga function in the backdrop of the iconic Mysuru palace on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The party that has been waiting to kick-start preparations to the Legislative Assembly elections next year, and a possible election to the BBMP Council, will be expecting some kind of a start from the Prime Minister's visit, as he is also scheduled to lay the foundation for public utilities projects.

Ahead of his visit, many of the routes that he is expected to travel also saw a huge facelift. According to the schedule released, he will criss-cross Bengaluru in an IAF MI 17 helicopter.

However, traffic diversions have been made and a detailed route by road has also been prepared. "Ultimately, how he travels will be decided by his security team," sources said.

While his flight is landing at Yelahanka Air Force Station, he will travel to the Indian Institute of Science, where he will inaugurate the Centre for Brain Research and Super Computing facility, and also lay the foundation stone for Bagchi Prathasarathy Hospital.

Mr. Modi will fly into Jnanabharathi where he will unveil the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, inaugurate the BASE University, and dedicate 150 upgraded ITIs.

According to the itinerary shared by the Information Department here, the Prime Minister will then reach Kommaghatta, where he will dedicate many projects, including the first AC railway station at Baiyyappanahalli.

He will also lay the foundation stone for the Bengaluru suburban railway project, six national highway projects worth ₹7,231 crore, and a multi-modal logistics park.

The Prime Minister will fly out to Mysuru and participate in a public programme at Maharaja's College Grounds, where he will lay the foundation stone for a new coaching complex to be established at Naganahalli and Mysuru.

He will also dedicate a Centre of Excellence at the All-Indian Institute of Speech and Hearing and interact with a few beneficiaries of various schemes. He will also dedicate the Veda Patashala building and release commentaries on Yoga and Bhakti at Suttur Mutt.

He will wind up Monday's events in the evening after visiting Chamundi Hills to seek blessings of Goddess Chamundeshwari.

On Tuesday, he will participate in the Yoga day celebrations on the palace premises for one hour and 15 minutes, and visit a walk-through exhibition.

He will join the members of the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru, the Wadiyar dynasty, for breakfast before leaving for Thiruvananthapuram.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

VIPs galore

With the aim of establishing an institution of excellence in Economics and allied disciplines, the Bengaluru Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) was set up on the lines of the London School of Economics. Over five years of its opening, BASE has seen a slew of VIP visits.

The foundation stone of the BASE was laid by then President Pranab Mukherjee *(in picture)* on April 14, 2017, to mark the 125th birth anniversary of the architect of the Constitution. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, an economist, inaugurated the academic session of the university on October 4, 2017.

Now the new building of the institution, rechristened the B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru., will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

With the impending visit of Mr. Modi, the institute has been seeing a regular flow of VIPs over the last few days, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, to supervise arrangements.

Dare you seek votes?

Congress leaders Sharan Prakash Patil and Priyank Kharge have alleged that farmers are running from pillar to post to get a bag of DAP fertilizer as the State is reeling under a fertilizer crisis.

However, Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Bhagawanth Khuba *(in picture)* has claimed that the amount of fertilizer supplied to Karnataka between April and June was 15% more than the demand.

When a few journalists asked the Minister to give specific data about the State's demand and the Centre's supply, he declined by stating that he was not interested in giving any details.

However, things became clearer on Thursday when an audio clip of a purported telephonic conversation between Mr. Khuba and an unknown farmer went viral.

In the clip, the farmer is heard expressing concerns over the non-availability of fertilizer in the local market and the Minister, instead of addressing the concerns, gets angry and asks the farmer to approach local officers.

This progresses into a heated exchange of words and ends with the farmer daring the Minister to seek votes and win the next election.

Prior info on ACB raids

Do officials who indulge in corruption receive prior information about possible Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) raids on their premises?

Yes, though it may not be with all the micro details, said an officer who is well aware of the functioning of the ACB.

It would be difficult to get information on the actual targets of the day, but a word would certainly go out that ACB is getting all set for conducting raids on residences.

Normally, senior officers in certain departments, "known" for corruption, get information through sources they have cultivated that something is afoot, though they may not know if they are specific targets.

They heave a sigh of relief if none knock on their doors before dawn, the official said. If they do, they are not so entirely taken by surprise.

NAGESH PRABHU
KUMAR BURADIKATTI
SATHISH G.T.

BSY gets bail in land denotification case

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was granted bail in a land denotification case by the Special Court for Peoples' Representatives in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Mr. Yediyurappa appeared before the court on Friday and moved bail in the case. The complainant's counsel K.V. Dhanajay said they did not oppose the bail and the court granted it.

"We have not opposed the bail application, but opposed certain grounds taken for the bail and also asked the court to impose a condition that the accused doesn't impede the probe and trial of the case," said Mr. Dhananjay.

The case pertains to denotification of 15 acres 20 guntas of land in Bellandur and Devarabeesanahalli by Mr. Yediyurappa in 2006 when he was Deputy Chief Minister.

An activist, Vasudevareddy, filed a private complaint in 2013. Senior Congress leader R.V. Deshpande was also an accused in the case, but the High Court of Karnataka quashed the case against him in 2015, leaving Mr. Yediyurappa as the sole accused in the case.

The Lokayukta Police, who investigated the case, had recently filed a 'B Report' in the case, which the court did not accept and ordered them to reinvestigate.

B.S. Yediyurappa

Aerospace and Defence policy will be ready by November, says Nirani

Industries Minister says it aims to establish Karnataka as the preferred investment destination for aerospace and defence manufacturing

Minister for Large and Medium Industries Murugesh Nirani

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani on Sunday said that the Karnataka Aerospace and Defence Policy (2022-207), which aims to establish the State as the preferred investment destination for aerospace and defence manufacturing, will be ready by the three-day global investors meet starting on November 2.

Under the policy, the State will develop five aerospace and defence hubs in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Chamarajanagar.

"The policy aims to attract investments to a tune of ₹60,000 crore in the aerospace and defence sector during the five-year policy period, and to create additional employment opportunities of more than 70,000. It will also develop Karnataka as a manufacturing hub, including MRO and space applications for both Indian market and exports," the Minister said in a note released here on Sunday.

The department is already developing phase 2 of the park at Haralur in over 1,200 acres near Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, and financial incentives have been earmarked to park developers as per the Karnataka Industrial Policy 2020-2025.

The policy is coming at a time when the Defence Ministry has set a target of 70% self -reliance in weapons by 2027, creating huge prospects for industry players.

"The aerospace and defence parks will have a comprehensive infrastructure facilities, including roads, captive power generation, water supply, facilities for R&D, common training, and warehouse facilities, among others The government it is will provide courses pertaining to the aerospace and defence sector to create a strong pool of talent for the companies setting up units in the park," he added.

Mr. Nirani, who has piloted the policy, said that India's current market size of approximately $7 billion is expected to grow at a CAGR of 7.5% to reach $15 billion by 2032 that presents significant opportunity.

"Karnataka contributes a major share of 40% of defence electronics systems/ products. To give a further boost, the policy offers huge land and financial incentives packages for space, defence and aerospace manufacturers, and other sub-sectors."

Karnataka govt. will strive for revitalisation of soil: Bommai

One way would be to increase the tree cover, says CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education B.C. Nagesh, and Minister of Health K. Sudhakar during the 'Save Soil' campaign in Bengaluru on Sunday.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that efforts will be made to revitalise 2.5 lakh hectares of barren land in the State in the future.

He was speaking here at a function organised by the Isha Foundation on 'Save Soil', to mark the return of Sadguru Jaggi Vasudeva from his 27,000-km bike trip, during which he highlighted the need to protect the soil in several countries.

The event also saw the Karnataka government signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Isha Foundation to save soil.

To ensure revival of the soil, the Chief Minister said that one of the ways would be to increase the tree cover. "From a forest cover that was around 32% in the past, it has now dropped to about 24%. Efforts have to be made to increase to 30%."

He pointed out the efforts of the government, under former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, such as 'Bhoo Chetana', a programme to conserve soil and increase organic content in the soil.

"We are the first State to have ₹100 crore ecological budget under the guidance of Mr. Yediyurappa."

Mr. Bommai said: "We have to take a pledge to visit nearby villages for four days in a month that is Sundays, to create awareness to save soil among farmers. Our forefathers have toiled hard to save soil."

Regarding the MoU, he said: "We will do whatever is needed to save soil. The government will keep renewing the MoU for soil conservation under the guidance of soil scientists as and when required".

Sadguru Jaggi Vasudeva, Mr. Yediyurappa, and Ministers K. Sudhakar and B.C. Nagesh were present on the occasion.

CM blames Congress for Agnipath-related violence

'No responsible citizen will indulge in violence'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Accusing the Congress of inciting trouble over the Agnipath scheme, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that no responsible citizen will indulge in violence causing damage to public property. "The fact that Khanapura Congress legislator (Anjali Nimbalkar) is sitting on a dharna proves that the Congress has been inciting the nation-wide violence. Agnipath is a novel scheme and military training for youth between 17 and 21 years is followed worldwide," he told reporters here on Sunday.

The scheme benefits the youth and prepares the younger generation for jobs in para military forces, he added.

Referring to violence in the country over the Agnipath scheme, he said: "Indulging in violence is an unpardonable crime. Properties have been damaged. This is a politically instigated action and people will shortly understand this. No responsible person will indulge in violence".

'No ego in revision'

Commenting on the opposition to the textbook revision, Mr. Bommai has said that whatever changes are required in the revised textbooks, will be taken up with an open mind.

"I will get the memorandums given by former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and the seers, and will look into them with an open mind. I will not consider this as an ego issue," he said.

He further said that the government was ready to rectify mistakes if there are any objections.

Mr. Bommai said that the government had enormous respect for those who have strived to build the country and the State, including kings, writers, artists, and Jnanapith winners. "The government is not ready to compromise on their honour. We are ready to go to any length to protect the honour of the great personalities and to inform about their contribution to the posterity".

A file photo of a protest against the Agnipath scheme in Dharwad.

> **Indulging in violence is an unpardonable crime. Properties have been damaged. This is a politically instigated action and people will shortly understand this. No responsible person will indulge in violence.**
>
> BASAVARAJ BOMMAI,
> Chief Minister

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients propose to purchase the schedule property mentioned herein below from **Mr. K. Ananda Krishnamurthy**, S/o. Mr.J.N. Krishnan, Residing at No.515, 3rd Cross, 2nd Block, Vanake Obbava Road, Mico Layout, Hongasandra, Bangalore-560068. Any person or persons having any claims/objections for the said transaction in respect of the schedule property may lodge their claims/objections with documentary evidence within **7 (SEVEN) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the transaction and any claims received thereafter will not be entertained.

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BETWEEN:

1. Mr. Harish KVS
Son of K.Y. Narayana, Aged about 27 years R/A No. 1058/D5, 1st Main, 4th Cross, K.N. Extension, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-22 ...PLAINTIFF

AND:

Mr. T Raghu & Ors.
...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No. 2 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATIONS

To, **Smt. J. Jayamma,**
Daughter of Late V Jayaramaiah,
Aged about 59 years,
R/A Raga Farms, Singapura Village,
Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-97

Where as, the above named plaintiff has instituted the present suit for decree of Permanent Injunction against you herein with respect to the plaint schedule property. Where as, it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Hon'ble Court that you cannot be served in the ordinary way of service of summons.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on 22/07/2022 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon at CCH-6 to answer the claim failing, which the suit will be heard and disposed of ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site no. 25, Katha No. 43/3 (New No. 1235/43/3/25), situated at Thindlu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring 35 feet, East to West, and 43 feet, North to South, totally spread over an area of 1,505 sq. ft and bounded as follows:

East By: Property bearing Site No. 26
West By: Property bearing Site No. 24
North By: Property bearing Site No. 22
South By: Road

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 7th day of June 2022.

By The Order of The Court
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
City Civil Court,
Bengaluru.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 07/06/2022

Address of Plaintiff Advocate:
A&Y Partners,
F-3,IIIrd Floor, Ligoury Court, #7, Palmgrove Road, Victoria Layout, Bangalore-47

At Vidyut Adalats, officers promise to resolve issues

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Vidyut Adalats were conducted in eight districts under BESCOM jurisdiction on Saturday aiming at speedy remedy of grievances.

According to a release, BESCOM officials attended the adalats, heard the grievances, and assured consumers of attending to the issues.

The release said that BESCOM officials have received the requests for additional transformers, LT lines, clearing of transformers situated in hazardous places, new connections, billing, and interruptions.

Senior officials of BESCOM had attended the border villages of Gadivarahalli, Bandarabi, Chandapura and other villages.

Officials have assured the consumers to resolve the power related issues and demands in a time-bound manner.

DKS urges seers to raise voice against textbook revision

'When such issues come to the fore, they should not sit quietly'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday requested seers of various mutts in the State to raise their voice against the alleged insult meted out to Balagangadharanatha Swami, Shivakumar Swami, Narayana Guru, and Kuvempu, among others, by the the textbook revision taken up by the BJP government.

D.K. Shivakumar

"The Siddaganga seer, the Murugha Mutt seer, and the Adichunchungiri seer, among others, have let their disappointment out. It is not about providing political support to us," he told reporters here on Sunday.

"Seers are there to protect our country. When such issues come to the fore, they should not sit quietly out of fear. What can the government do? That is why seers have to raise their voice. They should question the injustice meted out to the society. It is not about one caste".

The KPCC president said that the government was making efforts to scuttle the peace in the society, which has to be fought against.

"In the past, the BJP had fought against our government decisions. Only the seers can say whether the government was threatening them or they were threatening the government. When big personalities have been insulted what is the community organisations doing about it? What has happened to Vokkaliga Sangha or Veerashaiva Sangha? Why are they not raising their voices?"

The seers have to raise their voice like the way Kannada organisations protested, he added.

Mr. Shivakumar also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should answer the allegations of 40% commission against the BJP government in the State. Regarding the roads being decked up for the Prime Minister's visit, he said that it shows that the government does not work for the common people.

IN BRIEF

Sharmila to contest from Palair seat in Telangana

KHAMMAM

YSR Telangana Party president Y.S. Sharmila will contest the 2023 Assembly election from the Palair constituency in Khammam district. She made the announcement at a meeting with key functionaries of the YSRTP, as part of her ongoing Praja Prasthanam padayatra near Mujjugudem, in Nelakondapalli mandal.

She called upon party workers to work tirelessly for a landslide victory for YSRTP.

Coal Minister urged to revise pension

HYDERABAD

The Singareni Retired Employees' Association has requested Union Minister of Coal and Mines Prahlad Joshi to revise and enhance the pension of coal sector employees, as it has not been done for 24 years though it has to be enhanced every three years as per the 1998 pension scheme. In a letter, association president D. Ramchander Rao said many pensioners were getting less than ₹1,000 per month for 24 years and were struggling to make ends meet.

There is no development in A.P., says BJP leader

NELLORE

BJP national general secretary D. Purandeswari on Sunday sought a mandate for the party in the Atmakur byelection in Andhra Pradesh slated for June 23, saying that it would ensure speedy development of the 'backward' constituency.

At a meeting, she said the State had not witnessed any "meaningful development in the last three years due to inept YSR Congress Party regime", adding "the bumpy roads in the constituency are testimony to that."

More coaching centre owners under lens

They had a key role in instigating youth to vandalise Secunderabad station, says Govt. Railway Police

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Coaching institutes which train youngsters aspiring for Army jawan jobs had a key role in instigating the rioting at the Secunderabad railway station on Friday, the Government Railway Police (GRP) confirmed at a press conference here on Sunday evening. Asked if the gathering of the mob and the subsequent mayhem at the station was an Intelligence failure, Superintendent of Police B. Anuradha said it was a "surprise attack".

Cautious move: Security has been stepped up at the Vijayawada railway station. •G.N RAO

The aspirants who had cleared the physical test were waiting for the written test to be conducted. However, the written test was postponed four or five times for various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic. After the Centre announced the Agnipath scheme for recruitment on June 14 and the cancellation of the written exam, they were agitated.

Ms. Anuradha said the agitated aspirants approached coaching institutes which cited anti-Agnipath protests at a railway station in Bihar, and said that if something similar was done here, it would draw the attention of the Central government.

Stating that the coaching centre owners misguided the aspirants which led to the provocation, she added that the gullible youth reached the Secunderabad station and vandalised it.

Asked about the role of ex-serviceman Avula Subba Rao, who runs a training academy in Andhra Pradesh and is suspected of instigating the violence, Ms. Anuradha said many other such coaching centre owners were being identified.

WhatsApp groups

She said the mob was mobilised through WhatsApp groups that were formed on June 16. Messages were circulated that only Central government property is to be attacked, mainly railway stations. "The WhatsApp groups were named Railway Station Block, Hakimpet Army Soldiers, Chalo Secunderabad ARO 3, Indian Army, Army GD 2021 March rally, CEC Soldiers and Soldiers to die. They circulated messages on how to target railway stations, and executed the plan," she said.

SC yet to hear appeals on hijab row

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Appeals filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka High Court's conclusion that wearing hijab is not an essential practice in Islam has been in limbo for several months.

The petitions, filed mostly by affected girl students, raised the question whether the State could interfere if a student wore a hijab to college without causing any harm to others and under the firm belief that it was a part of her religious observance and practice.

The students also asked if a woman's dignity and the right to access to education should suffer because her dress code could not be accommodated by the authorities of an educational institution.

Students protesting in Mangaluru in March against the ban on hijab in educational institutions. •FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court in the *S.R. Bommai* case of 1994 had observed that "religious freedom is the hallmark of pluralism and inclusiveness". The Constituent Assembly debates note how the establishment of a secular state was an act of faith, the onus on the majority community to show that they could behave towards others in a generous, fair and just way.

The case was repeatedly mentioned in court during March and April for urgent hearing. The court had assured their listing. However, the appeals remain to be heard. This, despite the fact that in February, the Supreme Court had assured the students protection of their constitutional rights and intervention at an "appropriate time".

One of the pending petitions filed by Niha Naaz, said denying Muslim girls like her access to education, and thus, punishing them for wearing hijab to college, was a violation of their right to privacy. She said students like her had expected the High Court to quash a State government order of February 5 directing college development committees to prescribe uniforms.

Cong. to take LDF leader to court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

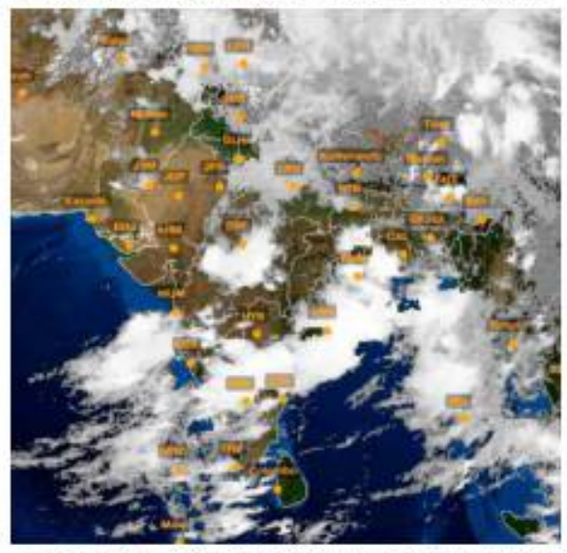
Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly V.D. Satheesan has said that he will sue Left Democratic Front (LDF) convener E.P. Jayarajan for defamation.

His reaction came against the backdrop of reports that Mr. Jayarajan had accused Mr. Satheesan of fabricating a video to tarnish the image of Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] candidate Jo Joseph in the run-up to the Thrikkakara byelection.

He said that Mr. Jayarajan had lost the moral right to hold the convener's post. His off-the-cuff remarks were a bane for the LDF and a boon for the United Democratic Front.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places likely over Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Sikkim, Konkan, Goa. Heavy rainfall at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Odisha, Karnataka, Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	13.0	28.7	25.0	Kozhikode	45.0	32.4	24.8
Ahmedabad	–	39.9	28.2	Kurnool	63.0	34.0	24.6
Aizawl	85.0	22.2	20.6	Lucknow	–	38.0	29.2
Allahabad	–	39.5	27.6	Madurai	–	34.8	24.6
Bengaluru	0.9	29.5	21.1	Mangaluru	9.5	30.2	23.4
Bhopal	1.8	34.8	24.9	Mumbai	9.0	29.4	24.2
Bhubaneswar	–	37.2	26.9	Mysuru	–	31.0	21.0
Chandigarh	0.4	31.3	22.7	New Delhi	–	30.4	23.4
Chennai	–	37.1	27.6	Patna	21.0	36.1	23.1
Coimbatore	–	33.8	23.2	Port Blair	–	32.0	25.6
Dehradun	5.4	31.6	19.0	Puducherry	–	34.2	26.2
Gangtok	2.0	19.0	17.2	Pune	–	33.1	24.6
Goa	4.0	31.7	24.2	Raipur	–	37.0	25.2
Guwahati	25.0	31.8	23.4	Ranchi	1.0	31.8	22.9
Hubballi	–	29.0	22.0	Shillong	24.0	26.1	17.5
Hyderabad	0.6	34.0	25.6	Shimla	1.0	22.0	14.0
Imphal	45.0	24.5	20.4	Srinagar	17.0	18.2	12.6
Jaipur	13.0	27.6	22.0	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.8	24.2
Kochi	9.0	31.0	24.4	Tiruchi	4.0	35.7	25.0
Kohima	12.0	24.5	15.0	Vijayawada	2.0	34.8	27.0
Kolkata	9.0	34.2	25.6	Visakhapatnam	–	33.6	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO2	NO2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	63	49	49	47	95	
Bengaluru	7	26	23	23	70	
Chennai	21	8	72	34	47	
Delhi	20	78	78	144	178	
Hyderabad	6	17	115	19	31	
Kolkata	16	16	15	42	66	
Lucknow	12	55	45	81	114	
Mumbai	11	13	17	20	41	
Pune	119	14	96	76	61	
Visakhapatnam	–	40	26	33	56	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 136 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Agra, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 26.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cong. leader accused of defaming Hindu gods

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Shylaja V.

General Secretary of State Mahila Congress unit Shylaja V. and four others have been accused of defaming Hindu gods on social networking app Clubhouse. In turn, Ms. Shylaja has accused three people of throwing stones at her house in Kasba village of Puttur on Saturday evening, which she said was prompted by the circulation of an edited audio and video clipping on YouTube about their discussion on Clubhouse.

In a complaint registered at the Puttur Town Police Station, Praveen Kumar, a resident of Kasba village, accused Ms. Shylaja, Preetu Shetty alias Mahalakshmi, Anil, Puneet and others of defaming Hindu gods during the session, Sunday Uncles and Monday Suns, on Clubhouse at 9 p.m. on Thursday last. Accusing them of hurting religious sentiments and creating communal tension, Mr. Kumar has sought action against the accused. His complaint was registered for an offence punishable under Section 505 (2) of the Indian Penal Code.

Ms. Shylaja, an advocate, in her counter complaint, has said that three people came to her house on a motorcycle at around 4.30 p.m. on Saturday and threw stones and mud oil on the windows of her house.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Clients are intending to purchase immovable property bearing No. 114, PID No. 82-24-114, situated at 6th Cross, 10th 'A' Main Road, Binamangala II Stage, presently known as Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru, with Ground and First Floor, and bounded on the East By: Site No. 99, West By: Road; North by: Site No. 113, South by: Site No.115. Measuring E-Wt:45 ft and N-S:30 ft in all measuring 1350 sq ft, from its owners 1) **Mr. CHACKO VARGHESE**, Aged about 66 years, and 2) **Mr. RAJAN VARGHESE**, Aged about 63 years, both sons of Late Mr. V.C. Varghese, No. 64, Regency Park, Nagareshwara, Nagana Halli, S.R.K Nagar, B'lore- 77. Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 15 days of publication hereof, failing which, our clients will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO &
H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES
No. 57, 1st Floor, Veerupillai Street,
Bengaluru-01. Mob: 9341380225, 9341885841

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Mr. V.VENUGOPAL REDDY**, S/o. V. Pratap Reddy, aged about 45 years, **Mrs. DIVYA REDDY .C**, W/o. Mr.V.Venugopal Reddy, aged about 40 years, Both are R/at #19, 5th Cross, Sai Baba Layout, Munnekolala, Marathahalli, Marathahalli Colony, Bangalore-560037 are intending to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Mr. K. VIJAY KUMAR**, S/o. Sri. Krishnappa .K.M, R/at Koraluru Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nadavathi Post, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District for Valuable Consideration. Any persons having any rights/claims/objections/Minor Claims, in respect of the schedule property are hereby requested to send their objections to the above mentioned address within 7 days, from the receipt of this public notice. If no objections are forth coming within 7 days, my clients shall get executed sale deed in their favour.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 139/4, total measuring 0.22.08 guntas (1 gunta karab) Pakka 0.21.08 guntas, of dry land situated at Kallasra Village, Lakkur Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District Bounded on :

East : Krishnappa Property,
West : Govinappa property,
North : K.S. Chandrashekar Property,
South : Road.

Mr. Manjunath Reddy, B.A., LLB.,
Smt. T. Shobha Reddy, B.Sc., LLB.,
No. 8/7, Mega City, BEML Layout Road,
Managondanahalli Main Road,
K.R. Puram Post, Bangalore-36.
Ph: 9886397779, 9886034356,
9845520830

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites tender from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for Receipt of tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	South East-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/591/2022-23 Date: 14.06.2022	Rs. 3,27,417/- / Rs. 8,200/-	05.07.2022 upto 5:00 pm	06.07.2022 after 5:30 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (South- East-1)		
2	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/418/2022-23 Date: 17.06.2022, Call-2	Rs. 70,95,715.30 / Rs. 1,41,915/-	27.06.2022 upto 4:00 pm	29.06.2022 after 5:00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineen(East-1)		

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009

3	Central	BWSSB/EE(C)/PB/732/2022-23 Date: 18.06.2022	Rs. 23,08,699/- / Rs. 50,000/-	04.07.2022 upto 5:00 pm	05.07.2022 after 5:01 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central)		

The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

DIPR/CPIRA/964/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yagachi Project Division, Belur. **PHONE: 08177-222294**

Short term Tender Notification No.08/2022-23, Dated: 17.06.2022 (Through e-procurement portal

The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Yagachi Project Division, Belur-573115 Hassan Dist., invited Short term Tender Notification through e- procurement only on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of **PWD Class-III &** above of any State/Central Government/Public Sector organization in Two cover system on the basis of **KW-3** conditions. **1)** Maximum Estimate cost: **Rs. 90.00 Lakhs, 2)** Minimum Estimate cost **Rs. 65.00 Lakhs. 3)** Maximum **EMD amount Rs.1.52Lakhs 4)** Minimum **EMD amount Rs.1.10 Lakhs 5)** Number of Works: **03 (THREE) 6)** The contractor can have access e-tender documents from Date:-**29-06-2022 from 4.00 PM to** Date:-**06-07-2022 at 4.00 pm.** through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by e –portal, **7)** Pre-bid meeting on Date:- **02-07-2022** at **04.00PM** onwards. (if possible) **8)** Opening of Technical bid on Date:- **08-07-2022** at **11.00** am onwards. (if possible) **9)** Opening of Financial bid on Date:- **After the Approval of Technical Bid. 10)** Time limit :**06 months** (including monsoon). For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**(Department).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, CNNL.,
ಆಯೋಜನಾ/ಟೆಂ/ಯಾಗಚಿ/ಯೋಪ/191/2022-23 **Yagachi Project Division, Belur**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients intends to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners 1) SANJIVA BHANDARY, 2) NAVEEN BHANDARY, 3) JEEVAN KUMAR 4) SHUBHA VINOD, 5) SHODHAN BHANDARY AND 6) SUMANA BHANDARY all residing No.297, 14th A Cross, 17th Main, HSR Layout Sector-4, Bangalore – 560 102. The property was purchased by late Smt. Muktha Bhandary, having purchased the same from Madamma, Kanchaiah and others, under a Sale Deed dated 14th November 1986 and registered as Document No.1569 of 1986-87, in Book-I, Volume 3007, at pages 219-222, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Nanjanagudu. The Property has been converted from Agriculture to Industrial and Residential purpose vide Conversion Order dated 21.07.1998 Vide No. SLN 129 of 1997-98 in respect of Sy No. 196/2 measuring 1 Acre 10 Guntas. After the death of Smt. Muktha Bhandary, the property devolved to her legal heirs as stated hereinabove.

Any person having any claim or charge over the Schedule Property shall lodge their claim or objections, if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this notice failing which it would be deemed that there is no claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever on the Schedule Property and further our Client can proceed to purchase the above Schedule Property and any subsequent claim or objections in this regard shall be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Converted Site No. 122/131, measuring 5058.11 Sq Meters, vide Conversion Order dated 21.07.1998 Vide No. SLN 129 of 1997-98 in respect of Sy No. 196/2 measuring 1 Acre 10 Guntas, situated at Kallahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nanjanagudu Taluk, Mysore District and bounded as follows:

On the East by : Kabini Paper Mill Compound;
On the West by : Remaining portion of land bearing Sy No. 196;
On the South by: Kabini Paper Mill Compound and;
On the North by : Road.

RAMESH .T
Partner,
LEX ASTRA PARTNERS & ASSOCIATES,
LEX ASTRA
Office at High Point 3,
Flat 3111, 11th Floor, 45, Palace Road,
Bangalore-560001. M: 98453 29685

IN THE COURT OF THE XII ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-27)
P & S.C. No. 228/2022

BETWEEN: Sri. C.V. Sridhar S/o Chikka Venkatappa, aged about 46 years, R/at No. 21, 5th Cross, 6th Main, Avalahalli, BDA Layout, Bangalore-85.... **Petitioner**

AND: Nil .. Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the above named petitioner has filed the above petition under section 276 and 278 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 praying for Grant of Probate of the WILL dated 20.01.2021 executed by Late Smt. Bharathi Rao in favour of the Petitioner, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule properties were held by Late Bharathi Rao, W/o late D.S. Ravishankar, who expired on 20/04/2021. The Petitioner here is an executor appointed by the aforesaid Late Bharathi Rao by the Will dated 20/01/2021.

Interest parties are hereby called upon to appear before the Hon'ble Judge, Additional City Civil Court at Bengaluru (CCH.NO.27) on **16-07-2022** at 11:A.M. inform to show cause against the Petitioner failing wherein the appearance will be consider as respondent as nil.

SCHEDULE

IMMOVABLES: ITEM No.1: Residential House bearing Muncipal Khatha No. 4635/3281 in the site No.15 formed in Sethihally Village, Re-Sy.No.62/1, measuring East to West 40 Feet & North to South 30 Feet built up area constructed with RCC roofed Residential House is 1000 Sq.Ft., situated at Ward No. 31 of Jayanagar East Tumkur bounded by: **EAST BY:** ROAD, **WEST BY:** SITE NO.12, **NORTH BY:** SITE NO.14, **SOUTH BY:** SITE NO.16.

ITEM No.2: Site bearing No.1214, measuring East to West 9.00 Meters & North to South 12.00 Meters total 108 Sq.Mts., situated at Sir Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 2nd Block, Bengaluru North Taluk and bounded by **EAST BY:** SITE NO.1213, **WEST BY:** SITE NO.1215, **NORTH BY:** SITE NO.1189 (PART) & 1190 (PART), **SOUTH BY:** ROAD.

MOVEABLES: ITEM No.3: (a) All Jewelry Gold and Silver Articles lying in Locker in Bank of India, Rajajinagar Branch, Bengaluru-560010, vide Account No. 840610100004994, (b) All Clothes, (c) All monies lying in FDR in Bank of India, Rajajinagar Branch, Bengaluru-560010.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, on 15-06-2022.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Address of the Advocate:
Naveen Gudikote
Office at No.22, Vishwanath Rao Road,
1st Cross, Madhavanagar, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Any person having any claim or charge over the Schedule Property shall lodge their claim or objections, if any, together with documentary proof to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this notice failing which it would be deemed that there is no claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever on the Schedule Property and further our Client can proceed to purchase the above Schedule Property and any subsequent claim or objections in this regard shall be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agriculture Property bearing Sy No.196/5 measuring 1.06 Guntas and Sy No. 196/6 measuring 0.2 Guntas, situated at Kallahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nanjanagudu Taluk, Mysore District and bounded as follows:

On the East by : Kabini Paper Mill Compound;
On the West by : Remaining portion of land bearing Sy No. 196;
On the South by: Kabini Paper Mill Compound and;
On the North by : Road.

RAMESH .T
Partner,
LEX ASTRA PARTNERS & ASSOCIATES,
LEX ASTRA
Office at High Point 3,
Flat 3111, 11th Floor, 45, Palace Road,
Bangalore-560001. M: 98453 29685

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, (Metro Rail Project),No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravindha Bhavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No. : KIADB/LAQ/METRO/R2E/2022-23/138 Date: 18.06.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Under section 28(2) of KIAD Act 1966)

It is hereby given publication for the information of the public that the KARNATAKA INDUSRTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD. Bengaluru has proposed to acquire the following scheduled properties for the purpose of 2nd Phase of METRO RAIL PROJECT. The Preliminary Notification Under Section 1(3), 3(1) & 28(1) in this behalf is issued vide Notification No: CI **165** SPQ (E) **2022** Bangalore dated 13-06-2022 by the Government of Karnataka and the same has already been published in the Karnataka Gazette dated **13-06-2022**

All the absolute owners and interested persons in the Schedule properties specified below shall file their OBJECTIONS IF ANY to the undersigned, Notice u/s 28(2) of KIAD Act, has already been served to the notified Khatedar/Anubhavdar, interested persons. As some of the property owners refused to receive the notice and address of some of the Khatedars are not available, notices could not be served. Hence, this notice is published in the Newspapers to provide opportunity to them.

Any contracts for the disposal of the said lands buy sale. Mortgage, Assignment, Exchange or otherwise or any improvement made therein without prior permission of the competent authority, after the date of publication of this notification under the provisions of KIAD Act 1966 will be disregarded while assessing compensation for such parts of the said lands as may be finally acquired.

The map of the area comprised therein and the notification specifying the lands which is proposed to be acquired may be verified in the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, KIADB, (Metro Rail Project) Bengaluru during the office hours on all working days. Enquiry is fixed **on 15-07-2022 at 11.30 AM** in the Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, K.I.A.D.B. (Metro Rail Project), No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravindha Bhavana Building, Bengaluru. Interested persons are hereby requested to be present with relevant documents. Failing which, further action will be taken in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE

Enquiry Date: 15.07.2022 Time: 11.30 A.M.

Village : Kengeri Hobli: Kengeri Taluk: Bengaluru South District : Bengaluru

Sl. No.	Property Owner	I.D. No.	L.A/CTS Sy.No.	B.B.M.P Property No	Area acquired (sq.Mtr)
1	M.Krishnappa S/o Late Muniswamappa	R2E-63-IA	47/1	2471/984/1 2472/985/2 2473/986/3	6.909

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer-2, (Metro Rail Project), Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture Company of KPCL & BHEL)
(Yeramarus Thermal Power Station)
CIN:U40101KA2009PLC049582

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION

No. KPCL/2022-23/IND5952 Date: 06-06-2022

Sealed Bid is invited in two part system through GOK e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from manufacturers/authorised dealers/suppliers for the supply of **" 1 No.500 KVA, 3.3/0.433kV Dry Type Stacker Transformer for YTPS" Last date for receipt of completed bids (Cover-1 & 2):** 13-07-2022 up to 17:00 hrs. **Date of opening of cover -1 (technical bid):** 15-07-2022 at 11:00 hrs. **Date of opening of cover-2 (price bid) of qualified bidders:** will be intimated later. Further details can be had from: The Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs), RPCL, No.3, 2nd Floor, Green building, (Drugs Control dept., premises), Palace Road, Bengaluru 560001. Mobile:9141607845 e-mail: kpclcetd@gmail.com /cetdkpcl@karnataka.gov.in

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No: BMRCL/ELE/0301/2022 Date: 20.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites sealed Tenders from suitably qualified, eligible, reputed and experienced Tenderers for **"Design, FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE AND GRAPHICS FOR STATIONS OF REACH-5 OF PHASE-II"**. under Single stage, Two envelope system. Cost of Tender documents (non-refundable): INR **29,500/-** [25,000+4,500 (GST@18%)]. Online sale of Documents: From **20.06.2022** until midnight of **20.07.2022.** Submission of Tenders: **27.07.2022 from 11.00 Hrs. (IST) to 15.00 Hrs. (IST).** Opening of Tenders: **27.07.2022 at 15.30 Hrs. (IST).** For further details visit our website: **www.bmrc.co.in** from **20.06.2022.**

Sd/- Managing Director

Designation failure

India must keep gathering evidence and build its case on cross-border terror in global fora

There is a sense of *déjà vu* about China's decision on June 16 to block the UN Security Council designation of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) deputy chief Abdul Rahman Makki as a terrorist, given that Beijing had repeatedly blocked the designation of the Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar until 2019, and other terror designations prior to that. Here too, the pile of evidence against Abdul Makki is considerable: that he is part of the command and control of the UNSC-designated terror group LeT, later renamed the Jamaat ud Dawa (JuD), which is also a UN-designated terror group, is in no doubt. He was not just a member of the governing body or "Shura"; he served as the head of its "foreign relations" department, and raised funding. He is also a member of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed's family (brother in law). The LeT/JuD has been prosecuted in India, the United States and even Pakistan for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, and Makki was himself tried and sentenced by a Pakistani special court to nine years imprisonment on terror financing charges – a ruling overturned a year later. India wants him for his involvement in attacks over the past two decades, including the Red Fort attack in Delhi in 2000, and, more recently, in attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir. He is on India's UAPA list of designated terrorists and also the U.S.'s Specially Designated Global Terrorists with a $2 million reward for information that would convict him. Given what India and the U.S., which forwarded the proposal to put him on the UNSC's 1267 list of terrorists linked to the al Qaeda and ISIL, have called "overwhelming" evidence, New Delhi has termed China's move to place a hold on the process (this could delay it for as much as six months) as "regrettable" and "extremely unfortunate".

While China's actions may be motivated by growing acrimony with the U.S. and India, it is necessary to analyse the situation beyond bilateral tensions. That Beijing's last-minute hold on Makki's listing came even as the Financial Action Task Force was meeting in Berlin to credit Pakistan's actions on terror financing, and begin the process to relieve it from the grey list, pending an on-site visit in the next few months, may not be a coincidence. While China defends its actions on Makki and previous designations that it blocked as "technical objections" based on "procedural" loopholes, it is clearly part of a pattern of protecting Pakistan internationally. It is also notable that as a result of China's objections or otherwise, none of the terror designations under UNSC 1267 thus far against LeT commander Zaki ur Rahman Lakhvi in 2008, Hafiz Saeed in 2009 and Masood Azhar in 2019 actually contains charges against them for any attacks carried out in India. Beyond criticism and continued pursuance of the listing, it is necessary for the Government to continue to gather evidence and systematically build its case on cross-border terrorism on the international stage that cannot be derailed by political or geopolitical considerations.

Monsoon jitters

Episodes of drought in India happen when the monsoon fails in July and August

The monsoon landed early in Kerala, three days ahead of the normal date of June 1. The journey upward of its western branch has since then been timely but lacking in vigour. The latest IMD figures suggest that the monsoon is running an 8% deficit. Central India, which has the largest swathe of land dependent on rainfed agriculture, has only got 52% of the rain that is due; the southern peninsula has a 22% deficit. Only India's east and north-eastern parts are battling the diametrically opposite problem of too much rain, with floods in Assam and Meghalaya submerging entire villages. The northwest of India, where the monsoon is yet to arrive, and reeling under a series of heatwaves, is battling a rainfall deficit of 33%. The monsoon rainfall is critical to *kharif* sowing and so a faltering June has raised concerns in several quarters. However, there is little to be worried about at this juncture. June rainfall, particularly in the first fortnight, is historically patchy and contributes less than 18% of the monsoon rainfall. Meteorologists maintain that there is no correlation of the timing and advent of the monsoon rainfall with its eventual performance. Because of the large variance inherent in June rainfall, the IMD has historically chosen not to issue forecasts for the month, unlike for July and August. The latter two are considered the key monsoon months and responsible for supplying nearly two-thirds of the monsoon rains. Episodes of drought in India and those that are linked to agricultural failures are when the monsoon fails in these two months.

In fact, the real worry that lingers over the horizon is rainfall in July and August. On May 31, as part of its updated forecast, the IMD gave an optimistic picture. The June to September rainfall over the country was likely to be 103% of the Long Period Average, and central India was likely to get "above normal" rainfall as was the southern peninsula. The monsoon core zone, which consists of most of the rainfed agriculture regions, too is expected to receive "above normal" rain. In previous years, there has been a pattern of 'normal' and 'above normal' rains being forecast only for them to dry up for large periods in July and August, followed by a sudden surge in September. This pattern may help deliver the numbers but is not always beneficial for *kharif* sowing. The expectations of a good monsoon are premised on the persistence of a La Niña, the converse of the El Niño and characterised by a cooling of the Central Pacific waters. However, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), another index of significance to the monsoon, is expected to be negative. Whether the La Niña can compensate for the dampening of the IOD remains to be seen.

The EPI may rankle but India can recast policies

The country ought to adopt a dashboard approach to indicators, modelled on the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi proposal

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

For a government acutely sensitive to global rankings, the latest Environmental Performance Index (EPI) placing India last among all 180 assessed countries has naturally touched a raw nerve. The assessment, carried out by Yale and Columbia Universities with an emphasis on climate change mitigation, has become controversial for prioritising the flow of greenhouse gases from countries while reducing the emphasis on the stock of carbon dioxide from industrialised countries that is warming the globe.

Evidently, if countries were assigned a penalty for the stock of CO_2 in the atmosphere, rather than measure their mitigation actions over a decade, India would fare much better. Less controversially, the EPI dwells on performance on air quality, waste management and ecological conservation measures.

Government's response

Unsurprisingly, the EPI ranking and scores have been rejected by the Union Government as based on "unfounded assumptions", "surmises" and "unscientific methods." The national rank of 165 on Climate Policy and score of 21.7 in this category – which overall has a 38% weightage in the calculations along with 42% for Ecosystem Vitality and 20% for Environmental Health – has particular significance. India is under pressure to raise its ambition and commitment towards the more ambitious 1.5° Centigrade goal for temperature rise under the Paris Agreement, going beyond the less rigorous target of well below 2°C.

Within the overall climate score, India does better in sub-metrics such as growth rates for black carbon, methane and fluorinated gases, and greenhouse gas emissions based on their intensity and per capita volumes. The Index rates the country low on projected green house gas (GHG) emissions for mid-century, a target for Net Zero emissions. The EPI report estimates that China, India, the United States, and Russia are expected to account for over 50% of global residual greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

This projection has met with strong protest from India, which has faulted the EPI for introducing a new metric on climate with increased weight in the calculation compared to the 2020 assessment. It stands accused of ignoring the important tenet of equity in global climate policy within the United Nations framework: that India has low per capita GHG emissions, reduced intensity of GHG emissions in its economy, made big strides achieving 40% renewable power generation, supported electric vehicles, launched a major carbon sink initiative, and done a lot for wetland conservation.

Claims and low PARI score

The country has protested that the new India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 was not factored in as part of the biodiversity metric. On the face of it, India scores abysmally low on some of the Ecosystem Vitality variables, such as Marine Protected Areas (0.3 of a possible 100) and Protected Areas Representativeness Index, or PARI (0.5), Terrestrial Biome Protection (TBM) - National (1.2) and TBM - Global (2.1). Wetland loss prevention is among the best scores for India, at 62. Given the many biomes that exist in the country, the low PARI score puts pressure on the Government to defend its

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

claim that the EPI scores for biodiversity health are faulty due to weaknesses in collecting species and habitat data.

The ISFR, on which the Union government relies, ran into trouble for making spectacular claims, because of perceived methodological weaknesses. It is faulted for relying on a relaxed definition of forest and claiming expansion of forests when satellite imagery of the same areas showed a decline. Ecologist and co-founder of the Nature Conservation Foundation M.D. Madhusudan pointed out that palm trees in private plantations in Tamil Nadu, tea estates in several States and even urban tree agglomerations were found added as forest. Researchers have been demanding that the actual maps used for the ISFR estimates be released publicly, not just the report making claims of expansion.

Biome protection, air quality

The EPI-assigned rating for India in protecting biomes has led to sharp differences too. The Index assigns a 'laggard' rank on tropical and subtropical dry broadleaf and coniferous forests, montane grasslands and shrublands and the worst performance on deserts and xeric shrublands. The Government's defence is that national and legal boundaries for protected areas may not match geographical boundaries of biomes, and international classifications may not be optimal to measure conservation.

A second sensitive area in which India brings up the rear in the EPI is air quality. With a score of 7.8 and a rank of 179, the familiar dispute over data and reliability of several parameters has reopened. The Government faults the dataset on pollutant concentration data – covering mainly Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$), Oxides of Nitrogen, Sulphur Dioxide and Volatile Organic Compounds, because of "higher uncertainty in regions with less extensive monitoring networks and emissions inventories".

Although the scores and rank could be contested, there is little doubt that India's air is widely seen as among the foulest. Data for 2019, when economic activity was unfettered by COVID-19, attribute 1.67 million deaths during the year from air pollution.

This has been reiterated by recent literature with commentary in The Lancet Planetary Health pointing out that "India has developed instruments and regulatory powers to mitigate pollution sources but there is no centralised system to drive pollution control efforts and achieve substantial improvements. In 93% of India, the amount of pollution remains well above WHO [World Health Organization] guidelines."

There are some aspects of the EPI that the Union government has rejected, blaming the ranking agencies for not "engaging" with India on the climate change mitigation programme, and for not providing a handicap under the United Nations principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), which forms the basis of the Paris Agreement.

India's defence has always been that its current emissions profile may be high, but it has to raise living standards of hundreds of millions with cheap energy. It seeks a significant share of the remaining global carbon budget and climate funds for mitigation actions.

Green goals

The national case would be stronger if policies on luxury urban emissions are aimed at helping poorer Indians. On transport (about 13% of emissions), prevailing high fuel and vehicular taxes could exclusively drive change and raise a green commons such as clean public transport, cycling and pedestrianisation. The national policy of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2070 provides a longer timeline for a coal phaseout, but other areas can benefit from policies that prevent a carbon lock-in effect. Emissions from buildings, including embedded carbon in construction materials such as cement and steel, provide scope for reduction.

India has also not expanded disaggregated rooftop solar power across residential deployments and commercial structures. There cannot also be excessive reliance on carbon sinks in the short term, since tree cover of the right kind takes time to store carbon. Stronger protection for biomes (protected areas represent about 5% of the land) can generate wide-ranging benefits and biodiversity can recover.

What India needs to adopt is a rigorous dashboard approach to indicators, assigning high weight to the environment, modelled on the proposal made by Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz and Jean-Paul Fitoussi in their exploration of development beyond GDP. This can generate good data, identify the real beneficiaries of policies, avoid serious environmental deficits and ensure inter-generational equity in the use of natural resources. It can also curb pollution. Distorted rankings from external assessments would matter little.

G. Ananthakrishnan is a Chennai-based journalist

Revisiting social justice under the Dravidian model

The Tamil Nadu government should release a white paper on reservations and pursue quota in the private sector

VENKATANARAYANAN S.

Dravidian politics in Tamil Nadu has played a significant role in democratising the public space for wider participation. As emphasised by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin recently, social justice has been the integral part of the Dravidian development model.

Social justice principles in Tamil Nadu were initially emphasised and propagated by Periyar, who fought for community-based representation while fighting the evils of the caste system. Even though the Dravidian social justice model was able to democratise the public sphere by opening the space in education and employment, there is a need to revisit many aspects of social justice to reach out and benefit more people.

First BC commission report

The report of the first Backward Classes (BC) Commission, headed by A.N. Sattanathan, appointed by then Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, in its report submitted in 1970 highlighted the unequal distribution of reservation benefits in favour of certain communities within backward castes. It further stated that around nine castes (that accounted for 11.3% of the total backward castes) held 48% of gazetted posts and 37% of non-gazetted posts. In the education sector, it was 47% of medical seats, 44% of engineering seats and 34% of scholarships denying an opportunity for the remaining 88.7% of backward castes in Tamil Nadu. Even though the Sattanathan commission had recommended economic criteria and taking out certain castes out of reservation benefits, due to political and electoral reasons, the government increased the quota for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from 25% to 31% and for Scheduled Castes (SC)/Scheduled Tribes (ST) from 16% to 18%.

Data from second commission

In 1979, then Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran, based on the Sattanathan Commission report, introduced the creamy layer concept (ceiling limit of ₹9,000 per annum to be eligible for reservation benefits), which was politically resisted and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) was forced to withdraw it after electoral defeat in 1980. The AIADMK government increased the Other Backward Classes quota from 31% to 50%, which made the Supreme Court of India direct the Tamil Nadu government to set up a second Backward Classes' Commission in the year 1982 to assess the ground reality. The commission, under J.A. Ambasankar, reiterated the unequal distribution of benefits among backward classes as stated by Sattanathan in the first Backward Classes Commission. The Ambasankar report stated that around 11 castes, which is around 34.8% of backward castes, held 50.7% of posts in the public service commission, 62.7% of seats in professional courses and 53.4% of government scholarships. The remaining 211 backward castes, which is around 65.2%, was poorly represented in government services and the educational system. The government added another 29 communities to backward classes without addressing the skewed representation.

GETTY IMAGES

Political moves

In 1989, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government under M. Karunanidhi divided the 50% OBC reservation into 30% for backward classes and 20% for Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and de-notified communities (DNC) due to agitations led by Dr. S. Ramadoss of the Pattali Makkal Katchi, demanding more representation for the Vanniyar caste. Later, the AIADMK government under then Chief Minister Jayalalitha enacted the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993, and got it under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to protect it against judicial scrutiny.

In 2000, then Chief Minister Karunanidhi released a white paper on the 'Reservation in Government Employment for the Adi Dravidars, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and De-Notified Communities. In 96 government departments, the SC representation in Group A, B and C was par below their constitutionally mandated quota. The MBCs, who were allocated 20%, had only around 8% in the group 'A' category. The BC had more than majority representation. It was only in the Group D category that SC/STs and MBC/DNCs had noticeable representation. In public sector undertakings, apex cooperative institutions, universities, corporations and statutory bodies, SC representation was only around 3% and for MBC/DNCs, only around 7% in the Group 'A' category. BCs had more than a majority in this category also.

Neoliberal state, social justice

The neoliberal phase after the 1990s has expanded the scope of the private sector in key sectors of the Tamil Nadu economy which included social sectors such as education and health.

According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report, 86% of colleges and 44% of universities in Tamil Nadu are owned by the private sector. With reservation not being applicable in the private sector, there is only 11% of the faculty from the SC community in Tamil Nadu according to this report. Even though OBC (no data for MBCs are available in the AISHE report) represent more than 70% of teaching positions in Tamil Nadu, SC/STs and the minorities are under-represented. Only 2.9% of faculty belong to Muslim community.

It is imperative for the Tamil Nadu government to release a white paper on reservations in Tamil Nadu to take stock of changes that have happened in the social composition of employees in the government sector after the year 2000. Apart from filling the SC/ST backlog vacancies, the government should increase the SC/ST reservations as their population according to the 2011 census is 21.1%. Further, the State government should pursue the policy of reservations in the private sector, which the DMK principally supported in its election manifesto. Reservation in private educational institutions has a constitutional mandate in Article 15(5), which came through 93rd Constitution Amendment Act in 2005. Such proactive measures are needed to add meaning to social justice principles under the Dravidian model.

Venkatanarayanan S. heads the Department of Political Science and History at Christ University, BGR Campus, Bengaluru

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

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Agnipath and defence

That several Union Ministries are coming forward with various schemes for the rehabilitation of retrenched Agniveers only raises more questions. Will not young men who know that they will be employed for just four years be more anxious about their future? Second, even if these promises are observed in full, the numbers of those so reemployed will be far less than those retrenched, leaving the bulk to fend for themselves. This has the potential to demoralise and demotivate even serving Agniveers. It may be fair to assume that the controversial Agnipath scheme is the brainchild of the highest political office, aided by the bureaucracy and then thrust down the throats of the three services. Service chiefs being paraded on TV channels to defend what is essentially a political decision amounts to civilian authorities including Ministers disowning the scheme. Launching such a radical manpower scheme in a hurry, with long-term consequences shows flawed security-related decision making processes under the current regime.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

■ As an afterthought, Government ministries are announcing a slew of "buy one get one free" kind of guarantees, waivers, and promises to shore up the Agnipath scheme, billed as a "transformative" recruitment process for soldiers. It is clear that the rollout of the scheme has happened without sufficient consultations. The Defence Minister's assurance that the quality of training imparted to the Agniveers will be the same as regular soldiers, except for its shorter duration, is as convincing as a "Learn English in 30 days" paperback.

S. SANJEEVI RAO,
Puducherry

■ The knee-jerk reactions of the Centre underscore the point that the plan was undercooked even after keeping it on the burner. It raises many a nagging question about the efficacy and intent of policy making in a most sensitive sphere such as the defence sector. Even hardcore votaries of the present dispensation find it truly hard to defend the indefensible. The support measures now offered are like using a garden hose to contain a mammoth wildfire of youth dismay, despair, and anger.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aramnola, Kerala

■ The words 'Agnipath' and 'Agniveer' may sound romantic, but in reality any young man would feel extremely insecure and vulnerable. Another big concern is about rookie soldiers who may not have enough time to be trained well in the defence forces.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ It is very clear, and strange, that this Government believes in 'shock and awe' all the time, examples being demonetisation, the first COVID-19 lockdown, and now Agnipath. It is distressing that democratic norms are being cast aside. Camaraderie is very essential in the defence forces, but with just four years of service, Agniveer would be pitted against Agniveer as only 25% of soldiers would be retained. In such a situation, one can imagine the tensions within defence units. Also, what are the standards/criteria that will be used to judge which soldier is fit to stay on?

V.V. RAJU,
Hyderabad

■ It is quite apparent from the massive destruction of public property that elements and the political Opposition are only hell bent on opposing the Government's scheme, without giving serious consideration to the pros and cons.

SESHAGIRI ROW KARRY,
Hyderabad

Recognising the 'compulsory' woman worker

There is an urgent need for widespread surveys of poor rural women and how they spend their time

BRINDA KARAT

KIRAN BAKALE

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) reported that the labour participation rate of rural women was 9.92% in March 2022 compared to 67.24% for men. This is a cause for concern. According to CMIE, millions who left the labour market stopped looking for employment "possibly [because they were] too disappointed with their failure to get a job and under the belief that there were no jobs available". In countries like the U.S., Canada and Australia, such workers who are willing to work but give up searching for work for various reasons are called 'discouraged workers' and they are included in the unemployed category. This phenomenon, not captured in India by any official labour force surveys, is wrongly described as women "dropping out" or "leaving the labour market" giving the impression that this was a choice made by them, whereas, actually, women are pushed out of employment. The CMIE provides valuable inputs for urgently required government intervention in rural India.

Ground-level realities are worse than what the CMIE suggests and what the government denies. Women who belong to landless households or with meagre landholdings cannot afford the luxury of being "discouraged." These are the "compulsory" workers.

The depths of distress

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) sites are probably the best places to understand the compulsions of millions of women to work. One particular project in Kalaburagi district focuses on creating more than 200 percolation ponds, which are designed to address the declining levels of ground water and to help recharge wells. This project provides a few workdays to an estimated 300 workers from four villages. The soil is hard and dry and the project stretches over several kilometres. The women, who outnumber the men, work in women-only pairs. They dig and lift the mud. In the searing heat, they have to dig a 10X10X1 tank in a day. An assistant to the officer-in-charge estimated that because the soil is hard and stony, this would mean digging and lifting about 3,000 kg of mud a day. Since most of these women are unable to complete this task, they do not get the piece rate of ₹309; they get only ₹280 to ₹285. There was no crèche at the site. There was no water, so women took turns to walk a kilometre to a water source to fill their two-litre bottles. They said their limbs ached. Many said they felt dizzy.

But despite the difficult conditions, every worker on the site complained about getting only about 40 days of work in a year. They wanted more as they regard MGNREGA work as their savior. The fact that they want to do more of this punishing work reveals the depths of the distress of poor rural households.

During the agricultural season, all the women worked on the lands of others, earning around the same as on the MGNREGA site. But the mechanisation of agricultural operations has drastically decreased workdays to less than three months a year. Many women therefore become part-time construction workers. They are hired by a network of "mistries" working for contractors. They migrate to construction sites for a few months, with their families or with other women from the village. Not one of them I had met had registered as a construction worker. They were therefore ineligible for any legal benefits accruing to them from the Construction Workers' Welfare Board. At a construction site, each of them carried a minimum of 1,000 bricks a day, weighing two kilos each, or other heavy construction material, often climbing to the first or second floor with this load. They were being paid ₹300 a day, less than the men.

When manual or construction work is unavailable, the women find other work. Some of them make twig baskets and brooms. They walk from village to village, often 25 km a day, to sell the baskets. It takes two days to make 10 baskets for which they make ₹10 per basket. Some women provide services such as cleaning or do odd jobs for landholding families for an average of three or four days a month. Some do tailoring work. They also do their own housework. So, going by the anecdotal evidence of women at a MGNREGA site, an individual woman in the course of a year is a MGNREGA worker, an agricultural worker, a construction worker, a migrant worker, a self-employed street vendor, a tailor, an odd job domestic worker, and a home-maker doing multiple domestic chores.

The 'compulsory' woman worker's work never ends. Siddhama, a 45-year-old mother of four from Yadgiri district, stretched out her arms and said: "My arms that labour... this is the property I have, to earn money for my family to survive. When I work, they eat."

The high prices of essential commodities have led to a huge cut in women's consumption of vegetables and pulses. To prove their point, some of the women at the worksite brought out their lunch boxes, which contained rice or rotis and a chilli chutney. Two sisters, Sheelawati and Chandramma, said, "We drink water after having the chilli chutney. Then we don't feel hungry." Others nodded in agreement. They said that the 10 kg of grain per head from the Central and State governments' free foodgrains programme was of great help and were afraid it would end. The deprivation of nourishment that women face due to high prices and low incomes is another dimension of the 'compulsory' woman worker's life.

Providing minimum wage

Almost every woman spoke of being trapped in debt. What the women earn from multiple tasks for which there are no fixed piece rates is in no way equal to the amount of labour they do. The dismantling of labour laws in urban areas has weakened labour departments. Implementation of minimum wage in rural India is conceivable only with strong movements of agricultural workers' unions. While there should be strict implementation of minimum wages with piece rates fixed for different types of women's labour, it is unfair that landless manual labourers in rural India are denied the pitiful government annual cash transfer of ₹6,000 given to land-owning farmers. While rural labourers should also be entitled to a similar cash transfer, the schedule of rates for women at MGNREGA projects based on impossibly high productivity rates must be lowered and the work sites made more worker-friendly.

With the deep penetration of capitalist processes in rural India, there is a crisis of livelihood options. Poor women adopt various strategies to deal with it. To make a correct analysis of this crisis requires a sensitive lens. The invisibility of women's work can be addressed through time use surveys. The village-level time use surveys done by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies, for instance, revealed the extent of women's work. In fact, widespread surveys of poor rural women and how they spend their time are an urgent necessity. The 'compulsory' woman worker must be recognised and protected by laws and policies that address her issues, while India celebrates the 75th year of Independence.

Brinda Karat is a member of the CPI(M) Polit Bureau

Petty patents can boost R&D

A petty patents regime could encourage domestic enterprises to undertake minor adaptive innovations

NAGESH KUMAR & REJI K. JOSEPH

Innovative activity is the key driver of competitiveness and economic growth. In that context, India's rank of 46 in WIPO's Global Innovation Index (GII) 2021, up from 81 in 2015, is encouraging. This finding corroborates an earlier one by UNCTAD in its Digital Economy Report 2021 where India was seen as exceeding expectations. While these findings are encouraging, India, which aspires to emerge as one of the largest economies of the world, needs to move up further in the innovation rankings, for building self-reliance in technology, especially in the context of the incipient digital revolution. China occupies the 12th rank in GII, ahead of Japan at 13th. This shows that it is possible to move up the ladder with sustained effort.

Boosting R&D activities

India has much room for enhancing its innovative activity. Among the key indicators, gross R&D expenditure (GERD) as a percentage of GDP at 0.7% is low. It needs to rise to upwards of 2% of GDP, as in the leading innovative nations. Furthermore, only about 30% of the GERD is spent by business enterprises, despite the generous tax incentives offered by the government. This suggests that Indian enterprises have not got into an R&D culture, not to talk of innovative rivalry. The bulk of innovative activity is conducted by a handful of companies in the pharma and auto sectors.

What can be done to boost the R&D activities of Indian enterprises? Given the strategic importance of innovative activity, governments in developed countries spend billions of dollars on R&D subsidies given to national enterprises to shore up their competitiveness. Subsidies up to 50% of project costs have been made non-actionable under the World Trade Organization rules. In India, R&D activities have been encouraged mainly through weighted tax deductions. Partial funding for specific R&D projects undertaken by business enterprises may be desirable to develop products or processes, thus strengthening competitiveness.

Funding support for R&D activity of business enterprises may help to direct it to a desirable direction or field. For instance, it may be used to promote capability building for new products, process innovations for local or global markets, focus on enhancing ecological sustainability, promote industry's linkage with public-funded research laboratories and universities, and so on.

A generous programme is needed to push R&D activities of enterprises through partial funding for viable R&D proposals of industry to strengthen India's competitive edge. Besides, products based on indigenously developed technology could be given production tax concessions (such as those extended to small-scale industry products) and income tax concessions (such as those enjoyed by export turnover) to encourage innovation.

The patent system

The number of patents registered by residents is another indicator of innovative activity. The patent filings by Indian enterprises and other institutions have increased from 8,841 in 2011 to 23,141 in 2020 (WIPO). However, patents granted have been only 776 and 4,988 respectively. Although the ratio of applications to grants has gone up over the years, many patent applications fail to satisfy the three-pronged test of novelty, inventive step and utility. In that context, another policy to promote local innovation could be to protect minor innovations through the so-called utility models or petty patents, as has been done by several East Asian countries. The patent system fails to encourage minor innovations since the criteria for inventiveness tend to look at the novelty of the invention. The experience of several East Asian countries suggests that petty patents and industrial design patents could be effective means of encouraging domestic enterprises to undertake minor adaptive innovations and foster an innovation-based rivalry among them. India should consider adopting a petty patents regime that provides limited protection to minor incremental innovations made, especially those by MSMEs, often called jugaad. The utility models or petty patents typically provide a limited period of protection (5-10 years in contrast to 20 years in case of patents) and have less stringent requirements and procedures. Incentivising minor and incremental innovations through limited protection under utility models will help to foster the innovation rivalries among firms, particularly MSMEs, paving the way for more significant innovations by them in the future.

India's rising rank in the global innovation league suggests its potential, opportunity, and stakes in boosting the R&D culture among business enterprises to strengthen their competitiveness. R&D funding and petty patents could foster these.

Nagesh Kumar is Director and Reji Joseph is Associate Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi. Views are personal

STATE OF PLAY

AIADMK's existential crisis

The party will find the going getting tougher than in the past over the leadership issue

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The AIADMK, which should be busy organising its golden jubilee, is facing an existential crisis as another split in the party looks imminent. This time, the bone of contention between rival factions is the issue of leadership.

When coordinator O. Panneerselvam and co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami, in a joint statement issued on June 2, announced that the executive committee and the general council would hold their deliberations on June 23, many thought that the event was being organised only to fulfill the legal requirement of having to ratify the results of the just-concluded organisational elections. Again, discussions among district secretaries and headquarters' functionaries, held at the party office on June 14, gave the impression initially that the proposed general council meeting was a mere formality. It was a low-key former Minister, Madhavaram V. Moorthy, who put the cat among the pigeons by mooting the idea of "single leadership" in the party. Most office bearers echoed his demand, taking Mr. Panneerselvam by surprise. In June 2019 too, after the party faced a rout in the Lok Sabha elections, its Madurai (sub-urban) district secretary and Tirupparankundram legislator, V.V. Rajan Chellappa, had made this demand.

The message of those who want change is obvious: a post should be created above those of coordinator and co-coordinator, and Mr. Palaniswami should occupy such a post. It was in September 2017, at the time of the merger of two groups, led by Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami, that the general council abolished the post of general secretary. It appears that at least 60 out of 75 district secretaries and a large number of the headquarters' functionaries are with this camp, which wants the general council to meet as scheduled.

The reason cited by this camp is that the "dual leadership" has "only hampered" the working of the party, which is seen conceding the Opposition space to the BJP, whose president K. Annamalai has emerged as a virulent critic of the DMK. This camp also subtly argues that Mr. Panneerselvam has been "quite soft" towards the ruling party. Besides, the way in which the party announced its nominees for two Rajya Sabha seats last month precipitated the divide between the two camps. Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami dragged their feet to arrive at a consensus. When Mr. Panneerselvam opted for former Ramanathapuram district secretary R. Dharmar, who was with him at the time of the latter's "dharmayudham" in 2017, Mr. Palaniswami did not anticipate the selection. Those who want change feel that the Panneerselvam camp has been "enjoying fruits" disproportionate to its strength in the party. They have decided to use the general council to cut the other side to size.

However, the group representing Mr. Panneerselvam feels that the coordinator has all along been "extremely accommodative" since the merger of the two factions. These members of the party also question the need for any change, as it was only in December last that the two leaders were elected to their respective posts for a term of five years through a single vote and with the support of all primary members. Besides, only six months ago, the party chose to adopt the rule that the mode of election of candidates for the two posts was beyond change and correction. Knowing that they are not strong numerically, the members of this camp are even contemplating getting the general council postponed by approaching the judiciary.

Notwithstanding the outcome of this episode, it is clear that the AIADMK, which suffered erosion in its vote base after the death of Jayalalithaa in December 2016, will find the going getting tougher than in the past.

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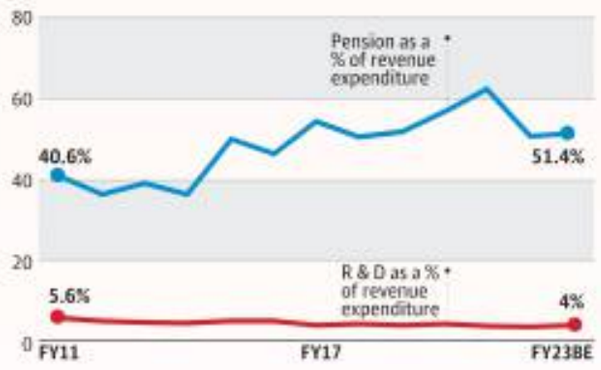
DATA POINT

Agnipath and pensions

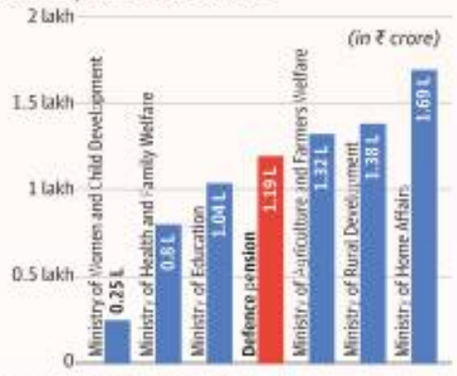
One key reason for the Agnipath scheme, which aims to recruit defence personnel in short-term contracts, could be to reduce increasing pension payments in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. More than half the defence budget is allocated for pensions every year while less than 5% is allocated for research and development (R&D). Over 70% of the defence budget is being used for revenue expenditure (operating expenses), while only about 30% is spent on capital expenditure, meant for modernisation of the forces. The budgeted expenditure for defence pensions in 2022-23 is higher than the Health and Education Ministries' revenue expenditures. Moreover, defence pensioners form half of all Union government retirees and double the number of ex-railway employees. The number of defence pensioners has increased by around 10 lakh in just the last seven years.

By **Rebecca Rose Varghese, Vignesh Radhakrishnan** and **Jasmin Nihalani**

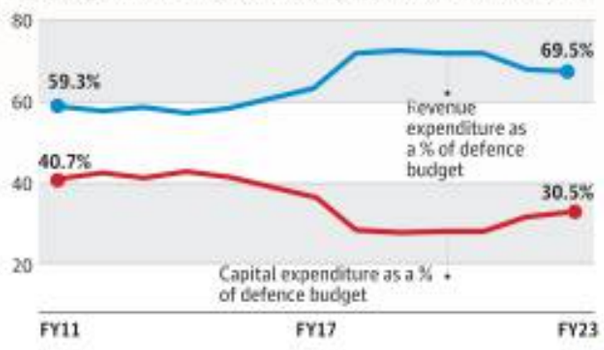
Share of defence budget | The chart shows the defence pension budget and the defence R&D budget as a % of the defence revenue expenditure. At present, less than 5% of the expenditure is allocated to R&D, while more than 50% of it is spent on pensions



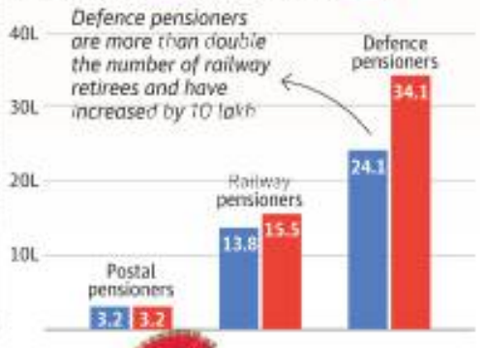
Pension vs. ministries | The chart shows the budgeted revenue expenditures of various ministries as compared to the spending on defence pensions for FY23BE


2 lakh
1.5 lakh
1 lakh
0.5 lakh
0
(in ₹ crore)
Ministry of Women and Child Development 0.25 L
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 0.8 L
Ministry of Education 1.04 L
Defence pension 1.19 L
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare 1.32 L
Ministry of Rural Development 1.38 L
Ministry of Home Affairs 1.69 L

Smaller capital expenditure | The chart shows the revenue and capital expenditures as a % of the defence budget. Increasingly, a lower share is being allocated to capital spending, which is meant for buying equipment, vehicles etc.



Growing in number | The chart compares the number of Union government pensioners (in lakh) across select departments between January 2014 and March 2021



Source: India Budget, Seventh Pay Commission report, Lok Sabha

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1972

Election by lot draw by child upheld

Can a three-year old child be allowed to draw a lot under the law to decide the result of an election? This question was raised in a writ petition in the Madras High Court by a defeated candidate, who lost the election in the lot. Mr Justice T. Ramaprasada Rao, dismissing the petition, said that according to the law, the mandate only directed a presiding officer to draw a lot and there was no irregularity and much less any illegality in the method adopted by the Revenue Divisional Officer in having utilised the services of a child for this purpose. In the election to the Chairmanship at Alangulam Panchayat Union Council, Tirunelveli District, held on August 13, 1970, Mr. K.A. Namasivaya Mudaliar and Mr. H.N. Maruthappa Pandyan – contestants – secured 14 votes each. It became necessary for the RDO, Alangulam, who was in charge of the conduct of the election, to decide the issue by lot. He requisitioned the services of a three-year-old child to draw a lot. The lot went in favour of Mr. Maruthappa Pandyan, who was declared elected. The defeated candidate, Mr.Namasivaya Mudaliar, filed the present petition challenging the process adopted by the RDO. It was his contention that under the election law, it was the duty of the presiding officer himself to draw a lot and that he should not use any other agency for this purpose. If he used any other agency, neither the letter nor the spirit of the rule was satisfied, it was further argued.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1922

Committed to sessions

Yesterday at about twelve the Special Magistrate in the Chauri Chaura Case delivered judgment. 228 accused have been committed to Sessions, including Khodai who has been committed today by a separate order. All of them were run in under Sections 120-B, 147, 302, 436, 149, 332 I.P.C. and 26 of them were run in under section 126 of the Railway Act and 38 out of them were run in under Section 25 of the Indian Telegraph Act for cutting the railway wires. Besides the above there were charges for murder, arson and being members of unlawful assembly. Seven persons were discharged yesterday, five because there was insufficient evidence against them and two because they were too ill to be kept in jail. A number of persons were discharged from time to time. The sessions trial starts on the 21st from 10-30 a.m. in the local District Jail.

FROM PAGE ONE

Services rule out rollback of Agnipath

The Navy's Chief of Personnel, Vice-Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, said the force had already started working on the process and the advertisement would reach the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by June 25 and the process would start within one month.

"By November 21 the first batch of Agniveers will report at our training centre INS Chilka. The Agniveers will be gender neutral," he said. Of the 3,000 Agniveers to be inducted by the Navy this year, there will be some women, Vice Adm. Tripathi said. "We are working out the numbers based on the number of ships they can be accommodated and the facilities in training establishments."

The Navy already has women officers serving on aircraft and onboard warships, he noted. The Navy is looking at recruiting up to 600 women Agniveers depending on the modalities they would be posted on warships as well, it has been learnt.

For the Army, the terms and conditions and eligibility criteria have already been put up on the Army website, said Lt. Gen. C.B. Ponnappa, Adjutant General of Army. "On July 1, we will have notification from all recruitment offices. The first rallies will start in first week on August to November. In two batches induction will be done into training centres," he explained.

The Army which plans to induct 40,000 Agniveers in the first batch will recruit around 25,000 Agniveers in first batch by first half of December and remaining in the second batch by first half of February 2023. For this, 83 rallies planned across the country covering all States, he added. Officials also explained that the intake of Agniveers would be progressively increased in the next few years. Intake of recruits under Agnipath will increase from 46,000 annually in the first 4 years, to 90,000 in the 5th year to 1,25,000 from the 6th year.

On June 14, the Government announced the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of soldiers into the armed forces for four years doing away with the current process and the age bracket for new recruits was fixed at 17 ½ to 21 years of age.

All recruitment in the forces for soldiers, sailors and airmen will now be through this route.

Agniveers on completion of four years will get an opportunity to join regular cadre and upto 25% would be selected through another recruitment process.

In the last few days several Ministries and Government departments announced measures to accommodate Agniveers in various avenues post the four stint, amid violent protests by youth across the country against the new scheme.

Army teams lead flood rescue in Assam

Flood and landslips claim more lives; death toll in three northeastern States crosses 100

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Disasters are often a test of character, as Captain Rupam Das showed on a day floods and landslips killed nine people, including three minors, in Assam.

The young officer had the option of attending to his marooned family at Pathsala in western Assam's Bajali district. But on Sunday, he chose to lead an Indian Army column in an operation to rescue scores of villagers in the flooded Sathikuchi village, about 30 km east in the adjoining Nalbari district.

Another Army team helped evacuate a cancer patient in her 40s, stuck at her flooded home in Kamrup district's Palepara vilage for three days, and sent her to an advanced healthcare centre in Guwahati. Three people in their 90s were also evacuated to safety from Kadamtola and Holapara village in Baksa district.

"Such inspiring acts manifest exceptional human values and strong military grooming," Defence spokesperson, Lt. Col. Angom Bobin Singh said, adding that 14 composite columns rescued 4,500 stranded people besides ensuring timely supply of essentials to the relief camps. Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said six people drowned and three were buried alive in landslips across the State during the past 24 hours.

In distress: People relocating to a safer place along with children after their village is inundated by flood waters in Nalbari district of lower Assam on Sunday. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

A few landslips were also reported from Arunachal Pradesh on Sunday. One of them at Sood village near State capital Itanagar killed a 16-year-old boy on his way to a boxing selection trial.

"So far, 342.28 lakh people of 5,137 villages across 33 districts have been affected in the second wave of floods and 1,86,424 people have taken shelter across 1,147 relief camps. Till now, 1,07,370.43 hectares of cropland have been damaged," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

The flood data provided by the ASDMA on Sunday was minus the inputs from Darrang, Karimganj and Tamulpur districts that were experiencing power and Internet connectivity issues.

Officials in Kaziranga National Park said about 15% of the rhino habitat has been submerged with 44 of the 223 anti-poaching camps inundated. While no animal has drowned, a leopard and four hog deer died after they were hit by vehicles on the highway skirting the southern boundary of the park.

Floods and landslips have killed 109 people across three northeastern States since April. While 71 died in Assam, 18 of them in landslips, 32 people died in Meghalaya and six in Arunachal Pradesh.

'Conman' Sukesh to seek jail transfer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will hear on Monday the plea of 'conman' Sukesh Chandrashekhar, who is lodged in Tihar jail on charges of money laundering and duping several people, and his wife seeking their transfer to a prison outside Delhi alleging threat to their lives.

The Centre is expected to apprise a vacation Bench of Justices C.T. Ravikumar and Sudhanshu Dhulia names of the prisons besides Tihar jail, where jailed Mr. Chandrashekhar and his spouse Leena Paulose could be shifted. Mr. Chandrashekhar, who is accused of bribing Tihar jail officials to the tune of ₹60 lakh to ₹75 lakh, is seeking transfer to a prison outside Delhi allegedly fearing threat from the prison officials who are under the scanner for favouring him inside the jail.

Four militants killed in Kashmir

Forces have stepped up anti-militancy operations ahead of Amarnath Yatra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Four militants were killed in twin operations in Kupwara and Kulgam in Kashmir on Saturday.

The police said two militants – identified as Haris Sharief from Srinagar, a 'C' category militant affiliated to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Zakir Padder from Kulgam, a 'C' category militant affiliated to the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) – were killed in an operation in the D.H. Pora area of Kulgam in south Kashmir. "A combing operation is on in the area," the police said.

In north Kashmir, a group of hiding militants was trapped in the Lolab area of Kupwara. The police said a joint operation along with the Army's 28 Rashtriya Rifles was launched on the disclosure of an arrested terrorist, Showket Ahmed Sheikh, from Lolab.

Under the scanner: Army jawans stand guard near the encounter site in Kulgam. •NISSAR AHMAD

"During the search of hideouts, terrorists fired upon joint search parties and our team retaliated, in which one terrorist got killed. The arrested terrorist also got trapped," the police said.

The police said a total of two militants were killed in the ongoing operation.

"One slain terrorist has been identified as Pakistani and was linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Two or three more terrorists along with the arrested terrorist are trapped in the encounter," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Security forces have stepped up anti-militancy operations in Kashmir ahead of the Amarnath Yatra.

"By targeting innocent civilians, including women and children, unarmed policemen and outside labourers, terrorists can't deter our efforts to bring peace in the Valley," the IG said.

20 Indian fishermen released by Pakistan

They were arrested five years ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

Pakistan, in a goodwill gesture on Sunday, released 20 Indian fishermen who have been languishing in a jail here for the past five years for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's waters.

The 20 fishermen were lodged at the Malir district jail in the Landhi area of Karachi. They were sent to Lahore on their way to the Wagah border where they will be handed over to the Indian authorities. Jail superintendent Muhammad Irshad said the fishermen were released on the order of the federal government.

"They were in jail for the past five years. Today, they were handed over to the Edhi trust, a non-profit social welfare organisation, which will be responsible for taking them to Lahore under police escort," he said. Mr. Irshad said the fishermen were arrested by the Maritime Security Force in June 2018.

Faisal Edhi, who heads the welfare foundation, said all expenses and travelling of the Indian fishermen were being taken care of by them. Pakistan and India regularly arrest rival fishermen for violating the maritime boundary, which is poorly marked at some points.

India gives emergency visas for 111 Afghans

Last year, 163 members of the minority community came to India after they were granted "e-Emergency X-Miscellaneous visa." India had suspended all kinds of visa after the Taliban took over the governance in Afghanistan in August 2021. On August 17, the special emergency visa was announced for the stranded citizens but most visas were only granted to people from the Hindu and Sikh communities. More than 80 members of the communities who fled to Dubai and Russia after Taliban take over have also been waiting for visas to be cleared. At least 11 persons who came to India last year but returned to Afghanistan citing personal reasons are also among the list of people awaiting evacuation from Afghanistan.

A delegation of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs when they met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19 had raised the issue of the pending visas.

Mr. Chandhoke had written to Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra on May 27 requesting them to expedite the visas.

Gurdwara attack may delay India's plans to reopen embassy

Team led by Director-level official being finalised to set up consular, visa and humanitarian functions in Kabul, sources said

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The attack on Gurdwara Karta-e-Parwan in Kabul, in which an Afghan Sikh and a security guard, were killed in a terror strike claimed by the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) as a response to the comments on Prophet Muhammed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokespersons, has restarted the debate over whether India should continue with its plans to reopen its embassy in Kabul, according to a number of officials.

In particular, Indian intelligence sources believe the IS-K is linked to Pakistan and the attack could also be a "message" from the neighbouring country to both Kabul and New Delhi, given talks with the Taliban on India's re-entry to Afghanistan.

The fate of the Indian Embassy was discussed when a team of officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) led by Joint Secretary J.P. Singh visited Kabul on June 2, the first such visit since the Taliban takeover of last August. The team met with Taliban-appointed Ministers, including acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi and acting Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani.

Advanced plans

According to sources, the plans for the embassy had gained momentum in the past few weeks, and a team of diplomats led by a Director-level official was being finalised to travel to Kabul and set up base there for consular and visa functions and to coordinate humanitarian assistance to Afghans.

The MEA declined to comment on the issue, but the sources, who requested anonymity, confirmed that the team was due to travel this month to Afghanistan, pending security clearances. At present, a skeleton staff of local Afghans have been maintaining the embassy on Kabul's Shar-e-Naw. Consulates in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Herat, which were closed earlier, however, may take much longer to reopen.

On watch: Taliban fighters stand guard along a road in Kabul, after gunmen stormed a Sikh temple. •AFP

Multiple appeals

Despite previous animosity, including attacks on the Indian Embassy led by the Haqqani group in the past, the Taliban regime has made a number of appeals for India to reopen the embassy, which was shut down in August 2021, and offered to guarantee security for the mission.

At least 13 countries, including Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Turkey, the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Central Asian states, and the European Union, operate embassies in Kabul, while the U.S. has deputed Qatar to officiate on its behalf.

Clear warning

"India is a historic friend of Afghanistan and the return of its diplomatic mission will certainly be welcomed by the Afghan people," former President Hamid Karzai told *The Hindu*, when asked about the possibility.

However, former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Amar Sinha said that the attack on the gurdwara is a "clear warning" that Indian interests and minorities will be attacked, "despite assurances from Taliban leadership".

During the visit to Afghanistan, Mr. Singh and Indian officials had surveyed the distribution of Indian humanitarian assistance, including wheat and medicines, as well as the condition of infrastructure projects previously undertaken by Indian companies, which the Taliban is keen to have restarted.

According to experts, this may have sent alarm bells ringing in Pakistan's establishment. In addition, concerns in Rawalpindi may have been raised after a statement by Acting Defence Minister Mullah Yaqub, son of Taliban founder Mullah Omar, suggesting the Taliban could continue the practice of sending Afghanistan soldiers for training to India, and another chief suggesting Taliban ties with India were strengthening.

Telcos seek norms for captive private networks

COAI calls for level playing field

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has urged the government to ensure that new captive private networks, which the Union Cabinet recently approved, are made to conform to the same licence fee and GST payment requirements as the existing telecom providers as well as necessary technical and regulatory safeguards to ensure that such networks remain "truly private and isolated".

Expressing disappointment with the government's decision and seeking a level playing field, COAI, which counts the three private telcos Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea as its members, has written to Telecom Secretary K. Rajaraman questioning the justification for allocating spectrum to 'industry verticals' for operating private captive networks. "Nevertheless, since the Government has taken initial decision to enable the CNPN (captive non-public networks) through direct spectrum assignment from DoT... we propose the following steps to provide clarity and reduce" risks, the industry group said in its letter dated June 18.

COAI has argued that there is a need to clearly define the scope of CNPN, which it stressed should be restricted to machine-to-machine communication inside the CNPN's premises only. The CNPN must also ensure that they do not cause any interference with public networks.

Citing national security, the industry group said that these networks should be made to comply with the prescribed subscriber verification norms to ensure adequate verification and traceability of every user. It further added that these networks would need to be even more secure than ordinary handsets as any security breach in a network, which is controlling machine/production, would be catastrophic for the economy of the country.

"Therefore, each and every network element for a CNPN (captive non-public networks) should comply with the requirements of trusted product/trusted source and any equipment should be installed only after obtaining the approval of the NSCS (National Security Council Secretariat)."

Also, the CNPN must be bound by the same security conditions as per the licensing terms applicable for telecom service providers.

Agniveer to have distinct rank and insignia

'Seva Nidhi' package of about ₹11.71 lakh will be paid at the time of discharge

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Agniveers recruited under the Agnipath scheme would form a distinct rank different from any other existing rank and also sport distinctive insignia on their uniform, according to the terms and conditions of the scheme.

The Indian Air Force (IAF), in a detailed brief, "Agnipath scheme for enrolment in armed forces", said Agnipath is a "new HR (human resource) management scheme" for the armed forces.

"Agniveers would form a distinct rank in the IA [Indian Army], different from any other existing ranks... A distinctive insignia will be worn by the Agniveers on their uniform during their service period. Detailed instructions shall be issued separately," the Army's terms and conditions state. "The recruitment will be on All India All Class basis," it stated.

Personnel enrolled through the Agniveer scheme will be required to undergo periodic medical check-ups and physical, written and field tests as governed by orders issued and the performance so demonstrated would be considered for "subsequent offer for enrolment in the Regular Cadre".

No retirement benefit

On discharge after completion of four years, Agniveers will be paid a *Seva Nidhi* package to enable them to return to society for pursuing employment in other sectors, both the Indian Army and the IAF said, which would approximately be ₹11.71 lakh. "Agniveers will not be eligible for any kind of pension or gratuity, neither will they be eligible for Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Canteen Stores Department (CSD) facilities, Ex-Serviceman status and other related benefits," the terms state.

"Agniveers will be barred from disclosing classified information gained during service to any unauthorised person or source under Official Secrets Act, 1923."

However, for the duration of their engagement period, Agniveers will be entitled to medical facilities at military hospitals as well as CSD provisions. They will also be entitled to honours and awards, as per extant guidelines governing the subject. Agniveers would be eligible for 30 days' leave per year and sick leave based on medical advice.

Further on the enrolment process, the terms state that each Agniveer will be required to formally accept all terms and conditions of the Agnipath Scheme, and for personnel below the age of 18 years, the enrolment form will "need to be signed by the parents/ guardians, in accordance with extant provisions".

Agniveers who are completing their engagement period in each batch will be offered an opportunity to apply for enrolment in the regular cadre based on organisational requirements and policies promulgated.

'Central govt. projects changing Delhi's face'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

It is the country's "misfortune" that many good things brought with good intentions get trapped in politics, PM Narendra Modi said on Sunday, as he cited development work begun by his government to assert that it is changing the face of Delhi. Speaking after inaugurating the main tunnel and five underpasses of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor, Mr. Modi cited many initiatives as steps taken to solve the region's problems.

APPEAL

Maet Padmesh 7 years old, needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. He suffers from Severe Aplastic Anemia and has to undergo Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplantation at V.S. Hospital, Chennai. He urgently needs Rs.15,00,000/- for his treatment and supportive care. Donations sent by Ch'D.D. favouring **V.S. Medical Trust will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch'D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY(Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No.CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT **(Please do not mention patient name on the cheque).**

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Cordel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978827. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com** Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

INTERVIEW | K.C. VENUGOPAL

'Arrest or jail, Rahul Gandhi is not scared; truth shall prevail'

He is being targeted by the Enforcement Directorate for standing with the people of India with courage and fortitude, says Congress leader

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to appear before the Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald case on Monday. He has already faced three rounds of questioning by the agency. Congress general secretary (Organisation) **K.C. Venugopal** *says the government is trying to intimidate Mr. Gandhi but he won't be. Edited excerpts.*

The Congress has suddenly become active, and some observers have pointed out that such energy as it has shown when the Gandhi family is in trouble is not visible when it comes to raising issues of public concern?

■ It is sad that a section of the media is only interested in weakening the principal Opposition and giving a free pass to the government. For the sake of our democracy, the media should be holding the government accountable and strengthening the Opposition, but that is a separate point. Congress has been, and remains, at the forefront of raising issues that concern the people – price rise, atrocities against weaker sections, the harmful farm laws, erosion of federalism – I can go on.

Who mobilised on Hathras (where a Dalit girl was raped and killed)? As we speak, today we are supporting the youth of this country who are betrayed by the government's misguided recruitment plan for the armed forces, and asking them to protest peacefully. The government is responsible for the violence that they have been pushed into. We are planning a *Bharat jodo yatra* in October. We are standing with the people, and mobilising them against a dictatorial government.

In fact, Rahul*ji* is being targeted by the Enforcement Directorate for standing with the people of India with courage and fortitude. The government hopes that he can be silenced through intimidation. But they should know that he is not intimidated. He is steely in his resolve to fight this barbaric regime to its end.

Why are you protesting against the ED investigation?

■ Unfair and fabricated as the case is, we are not protesting against the investigation. That is yet another distortion by a section of the media that has become the amplifier of government propaganda. On the first day, a few of us [party leaders] wanted to accompany Rahul*ji* to the ED office until any permissible point, as an act of solidarity.

The government hopes that he can be silenced through intimidation but they should know that he is not intimidated

Instead of allowing us to do that, the Delhi police began roughing us up. The next day, the protest was against this police high-handedness. They barged into the headquarters of the party, roughed up senior leaders like P. Chidambaram, women leaders like Jothimani. I was also assaulted. This kind of suppression of the Opposition only proves our point that this government is authoritarian.

Do you fear that Mr. Gandhi may be arrested by the ED on Monday?

■ They can do whatever they want to do. They can arrest him, send him to jail. Mr. Rahul*ji* is not sacred. He is not intimidated. They can send all of us to jail. We know that truth will prevail. Truth is that this is a fabricated case. The transactions they talk about are between not-for-profit entities. There is no benefit that Mr. Rahul*ji* or Soniaji has made from any of these transactions. In 2015, under the Narendra Modi government, the ED had concluded that there was no case to be made out. Now they have raked it up, hoping that Rahul*ji* will be scared. How mistaken they are!

The first opportunity that the Congress had to demonstrate its seriousness about declarations made at the Udaipur Chintan Shivir was the nominations for the 10 Rajya Sabha seats recently. But the party has already gone back on many of those decisions, it appears...?

■ The very selection of delegates for the Udaipur conclave, where 50% were below the age of 50, 22% were women, was instructive of how resolute we are in going about with fundamental, structural changes in the organisation, according to the changing times.

We need transformation and we are determined to achieve that. We are in the process of organisational elections, and once that is over, you will see from top to bottom the party will reflect the true picture of a young country.

We will have an organisation with a proper balance in terms of social groups, gender and age. We have revamped our communication team and are in the process of building a new communication strategy. As for the RS tickets, you have to appreciate the fact that we are the oldest party in the country, and we have to ensure that the best minds in the party are brought to the upper house, within the very limited number of seats we have currently.

Will Rahul Gandhi be elected party president?

■ When Rahul Gandhi resigned as the president in 2019, he said the party should elect someone from outside the family. Around 300 of the top leaders of the party deliberated over his suggestion and decided to request Soniaji to take over as interim president.

As of today, she is the president of the party, is taking decisions, and intervening in political issues, even as we speak, even from her hospital bed. As for Rahul*ji*, you will know soon, as we have to complete the election process by September. What is true is the fact that Congress workers at all levels, want him to become the President of the party.

Opposition is playing politics, says BJP

'PM Modi is walking on the path of fire, party says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday accused the Opposition parties of doing politics on issues of national security as protests continued against the new short service scheme, called Agnipath, launched by the government for recruitment in the armed forces. On a day when the Congress held a protest against the scheme, the BJP made strong remarks against the support that the Opposition was extending to those against the scheme.

Fit of fury: Smoke billows out after protesters set on fire a train in protest against the 'Agnipath' scheme, in Bihar. • PTI

At a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "The way Lt. Gen. Puri [Additional Secretary, Department of Military Affairs] has explained the Agnipath programme in the Army conference, I think now there is no doubt about it. It is sad to say that there should be no politics on some subjects. Politics is also taking place in the country on the subject of national policies and the Army officers have to come to explain to them and say that there is no place in this country for arson and violence, and do not indulge in violence. After all, what does the Opposition want? How will India become great if it does not reform, perform and transform?"

The BJP leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "walking on Agnipath" [path of fire] for the progress of the country and said that the Opposition is "not able to digest this".

"Prime Minister walks on the path of reform, perform and transform by working 24 hours a day. He walks on the path of Agnipath so that my country can progress, my India can become great. But some people are not able to digest this national policy, politics is being done on this too," he said.

BJP leaders' comments lead to a strong backlash

Vijayvargiya, Kishen Reddy flayed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya on Sunday courted controversy when he said that Agniveers recruited under the Agnipath scheme will be given priority while recruiting security guards for party offices.

"When an Agniveer comes out after serving in the defence sector for four years at the age of even 25, he will have ₹11 lakh with him. He will have the tag of an Agniveer that he can proudly display. If I want to hire security for the BJP office, I will give priority to Agniveer," Mr. Vijayvargiya said at a press conference in Indore on Saturday.

The statement attracted backlash from various quarters. BJP MLA Varun Gandhi took to Twitter and wrote that those inviting Indian soldiers to guard the offices of the political party should keep such offers to themselves.

Clarifying his stance on Twitter, Mr. Vijayvargiya said: "Agniveer who came out of Agnipath scheme will definitely be trained and committed to duty, his excellence will be used in whatever field he goes after completing his service in the army. That is clearly what I meant."

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, who allegedly said that armed forces would be a training ground for skilled labour work force such as drivers and electricians under the Agnipath scheme, All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen's Asaduddin Owaisi tweeted: "Modi's Minister @kishanreddybjp says #Agniveers will be trained as drivers, dhobis etc.. Serving in army is a prestigious profession with no parallel. These men are willing to kill or get killed for India. If they wanted to be drivers, etc why would they spend 4 years in army?.. It's clear that BJP sees Agniveers as nothing but chowkidaars on hire."

Home Secretary reviews law and order over bandh call

35 WhatsApp groups blocked for spreading fake news

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla chaired a meeting of Directors-General of Police and Chief Secretaries of all States on Sunday in view of the violence over the Agnipath scheme and the Bharat bandh call for Monday.

It is not clear which organisation had announced the country-wide protest to take place on Monday, but the police in several areas imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, prohibiting gatherings of more than four people at a time based on social media posts.

"No particular organisation is known to have called for a Bharat bandh, but as a preventive measure, we are taking all precautions by deploying additional forces," said the DGP of one of the States on condition of anonymity. A senior official said that based on inputs provided by intelligence agencies, 35 WhatsApp groups have been blocked for spreading misinformation and "fake news" about Agnipath. A close watch was being kept on other social media platforms also, the official said.

The police have imposed Section 144 in several areas ahead of the bandh. • PTI

In a video conference with senior officials of the State governments, the Home Secretary was apprised of the law and order situation and measures taken to bring the violence under control.

Violent protests were reported from several parts of the country since the Agnipath scheme, for short-term recruitment in the armed forces, was announced by the government on June 15.

Monitoring WhatsApp

The intelligence agencies were keeping a close watch on WhatsApp groups run by coaching institutes from where mass calls for protests were announced, particularly in Bihar. Police officials have been asked to hold community meetings to explain the benefits of the scheme.

Nearly 400 east-bound trains were cancelled in the past two days. Amid protests, the government has announced incentives for Agniveers after they complete four-years of service which include 10% reservation in Central Armed Police Forces and Defence Ministry jobs. Only up to 25% of the Agniveers will be retained at the completion of four-years.

Recognise real and fake nationalists: Priyanka

'New scheme is a premeditated plan'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Drawing a binary between the "real nationalists" and "fake nationalists", Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra exhorted the young to wake up to the reality of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government. She was speaking at a "satyagraha" organised by the Congress against the Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitment to the defence services, and in solidarity with nationwide protests against the scheme at the national capital's Jantar Mantar on Sunday.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Addressing the youth, she said, "You dream about getting recruited in the Army. A job that will help you take care of your family and the country. There is no bigger patriot than you. And I would say that you must keep your eyes open to recognise the fake nationalists and fake patriots."

She said it was wrong to say that the Agnipath scheme was an impulsive decision. Ms. Vadra said this scheme, like many others, was a premeditated plan of the BJP government that will "kill the youth" of the country and "finish the Army".

The BJP government is not working for the people, she said, alleging that all its schemes were aimed to benefit a select few "friends" of the party. "Use the democratic, peaceful, non-violent truth to demolish this government. Your aim must be to install a government that is made up of real nationalists," she added.

'Modi delivering no rank, no pension'

Tejashwi asks if there is hidden agenda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

RJD leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav cornered the Centre on the Agnipath military recruitment scheme on Tuesday, asking it to explain whether this was an MGNREGA-like initiative for the educated youth, or there was a "hidden agenda" of the Bharatiya Janata Party's ideological parent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) behind it.

Tejashwi Yadav

Mr. Yadav, at a press conference in the capital, announced that the RJD and all its allies would lead a march from the Bihar Assembly to the Raj Bhavan in Patna.

Bihar is seeing widespread protests, including incidents of arson and vandalism, against the short-term recruitment scheme. Mr. Yadav appealed to the youth to carry on the protest peacefully.

He dismissed the BJP's claims that the RJD and other Opposition parties were responsible for instigating these protests. "How can the Opposition be held responsible? We are not in power. It is for those in power to ensure that law and order is maintained and they create the necessary situation where the youth are not forced to march on the roads," Mr. Yadav said.

He also questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the issue. The government, he said, came to power promising one rank, one pension, and instead it was delivering no rank, no pension.

R. Raveendran passes away

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Veteran photojournalist R. Raveendran passed away here on Sunday.

Mr. Raveendran, 69, was the recipient of numerous photography awards and is known for his iconic photo of Rajiv Goswami setting himself on fire during the Mandal agitation in the Capital. He started his career as a teleprinter operator in *AFP* in 1973. He was presently working with the *ANI*.

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TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com.

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2022_KMML_494782_1	For the supply of Inconnel Pipe
2	2022_KMML_493988_1	For the supply of CS Pipe
3	2022_KMML_495289_1	For Sundry transportation of goods from various parts of the country to Kollam for Titanium Dioxide Pigment Unit, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala.
4	2022_KMML_495302_1	For the supply of Safety Shoes Leather- Brown for 686 DCW Employees

Chavara 18.06.2022 sd/- DGM (Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

5	2022_KMML_494541_1	Design supply, Supervision for erection testing & commissioning of new clarifier mechanism with automatic flocculant dosing system at KMML TP Unit, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India
6	2022_KMML_495279_1	Supply and application of castables in Spray roaster (1 R 101) in our Acid Regeneration Plant at our TP unit, as per the details in the tender document
7	2022_KMML_493664_1	Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of new 40 TPH Water tube Boiler plant project at TP unit of KMML

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सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग
अम्बेडकर भवन, जी 3/1, राजमहल रेजीडेन्सी क्षेत्र, जयपुर
क्रमांक: एफ 13 ( )अनु./कोचिंग/सामाजी/2021/34352 जयपुर, दिनांक: 16.06.2022

विज्ञप्ति

मुख्यमंत्री अनुप्रति कोचिंग योजनान्तर्गत विभिन्न प्रोफेशनल कोर्स एवं नौकरियों के लिए आयोजित होने वाली प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं की तैयारी उत्कृष्ट ढंग से कराने एवं समान अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए शैक्षणिक सत्र 2022-23 में इच्छुक प्रतिष्ठित पंजीकृत कोचिंग संस्थाओं के प्रस्ताव एवं कोचिंग करने हेतु इच्छुक अभ्यर्थियों के आवेदन प्राप्त करने हेतु निम्नानुसार तिथियां निर्धारित की जाती हैं।

क्र.सं.	विषय वस्तु	निर्धारित दिनांक
1	मुख्यमंत्री अनुप्रति कोचिंग योजना के अन्तर्गत इच्छुक कोचिंग संस्थाओं के नवीन/नवीनीकरण/ अतिरिक्त परीक्षाओं के प्रस्ताव ऑनलाईन किये जाने की तिथि	15 जून 2022 से
2	कोचिंग करने हेतु इच्छुक अभ्यर्थियों के ऑनलाईन आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने हेतु तिथि	01 जुलाई से 31 जुलाई 2022 तक

योजना के विस्तृत दिशा-निर्देश विभागीय वेबसाइट www.sje.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(ओ.पी.बुनकर)
निदेशक एवं संयुक्त शासन सचिव

DIPR/C/8387/22

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग, कोटा
क्रमांक: 1023 दिनांक: 15.6.22

संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या-06/ 2022-23

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 910 दिनांक 06.06.2022 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या-06/ 2022-23 के क्र.सं. 4 पर अंकित कार्य में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1.	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 20.06.2022 से 19.07.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 20.06.2022 से 04.08.2022, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
2.	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 20.06.2022 से 19.07.2022, सायं 6.00 बजे तक।	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख 20.06.2022 से 04.08.2022, सायं 6.00 बजे तक।
3.	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 21.07.2022 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 05.08.2022 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक
4.	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बीएसी प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्य हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दरावलेख मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रु. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-(02) (निर्माण विभाग) ई-क्षम पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान में दिनांक 19.07.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड झालावाड़ के नाम जमा करवाई जावे है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान में तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) संपत्ति कर रु. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा।	बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बीएसी प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्य हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दरावलेख मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01 RISL शुल्क रु. 1000/- बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-(02) (निर्माण विभाग) ई-क्षम पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान में दिनांक 04.08.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक अधिशाषी अभियंता सा.नि.वि. खण्ड झालावाड़ के नाम जमा करवाई जावे है एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान में तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) संपत्ति कर रु. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑन लाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
5.	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक 30.06.2022 प्रातः 11.00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक 12.07.2022 प्रातः 11.00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
UBN No. RWD2023WLOB02294
DIPR/C/8301/2022

(जी.सी. मीणा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग, कोटा

'Opposition misleading youth on Agnipath'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Canvassing for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in the Lok Sabha byelection in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday accused the Opposition parties of 'misleading' the youth against the Agnipath scheme for the recruitment into the armed forces.

"The world has welcomed the scheme, but the Opposition parties are misleading the youth due to their bad nature of playing with the lives of the youth," Mr. Adityanath said.

The CM's attack on the Opposition parties comes at a time when youth, believed to be armed force aspirants, have come out on the streets in several districts of the State to oppose new recruitment scheme by the Union government. In many parts of the State, the protests turned violent and mobs damaged public property and vehicles, leading to the arrest of at least 340 people until Saturday evening.

Mr. Adityanath said 10 lakh youth would get jobs in a year and a half, while 25% of those who complete the training under the Agnipath scheme would go on to serve in the armed forces.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, SUNDARGARH

Advt. No - 2615 **TENDER CALL NOTICE** Date - 17/06/2022

Sealed Tenders are invited from intending agency/firms /Suppliers through Speed Post / Register Post for supply of **KMC Kit under DMF, Sundargarh** for the year 2022-23.

The willing reputed agency/firms /Suppliers are requested to submit sealed tenders to the office of the undersigned on or before **04.07.2022 till 05.00 pm**. Tender documents can be downloaded/ obtained from the district website **www.sundergarh.nic.in**. This office will not entertain any tender after the due date/time fixed for at any circumstances. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or whole tender without assigning any reason thereof.

-Sd-
Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Sundargarh

E - 233 OIPR-10100/11/0007/2223

Sri Lanka to resume Jaffna flights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will resume flights from the northern Jaffna peninsula to India in July, Aviation Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has said, adding the service will support the country's tourism industry and help ease the economic crisis.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority plans to attract 8,00,000 tourists during the rest of the year.

"The northern Jaffna peninsula's Palaly airport is to resume flights to India from next month," Mr. Siripala de Silva said on Saturday. However, he did not specify a date.

"Resuming the flights would improve tourism and help the country in the current dollar crisis," he said after inspecting the Jaffna international airport. The present runway can accommodate 75-seater flights only and therefore needs to be extended, he said.

He hoped for Indian assistance for runway improvement. The 2019 redevelopment was funded by Sri Lanka and India.

Five High Courts to get new Chief Justices

Telangana Chief Justice transferred to Delhi High Court

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has cleared the appointments of new Chief Justices for five High Courts and transferred Telangana Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma to the Delhi High Court.

The appointments have come within a month after the Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana made the recommendations to the government.

The High Courts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gauhati and Telangana are getting the new Chief Justices.

Justice Vipin Sanghi, Delhi High Court judge, has been appointed Chief Justice of Uttarakhand.

Justices Amjad A. Sayed has been appointed Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and S.S. Shinde of the Bombay High Court.

Recently, the daughter of a Himachal Pradesh High Court judge was arrested in connection with the murder of national-level shooter and advocate Sukhmanpreet Singh Sidhu.

N.V. Ramana

Justice Rashmin Manharbhai Chhaya, Gujarat High Court judge, has been appointed Gauhati Chief Justice.

Telangana High Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan has been appointed Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court. Justice Bhuyan's parent High Court is Gauhati.

Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, whose parent High Court is Madhya Pradesh, would have a tenure till November 2023.

The Delhi High Court has not had a Chief Justice since Chief Justice D.N. Patel retired. Justice Sanghi has been the Acting Chief Justice since March 13.

Judicial vacancies

As of June 1, the number of judicial vacancies in the 25 High Courts remain at 400, while the working strength is 708.

The sanctioned strength is 1,108.

CJI Ramana, in his address at the recent joint conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers, highlighted how the sanctioned judicial strength continued to be disproportionate to the burgeoning case load faced by the district courts, High Courts and Supreme Court.

"When we last met in 2016, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers in the country was 20,811. Now, it is 24,112, which is an increase of 16% in six years. On the other hand, in the corresponding period, pendency in district courts has gone up from 2.65 crore to 4.11 crore which is an increase of 54.64%," Chief Justice Ramana said.

'VIP visitors' flock to PMs' Museum

Over 37,000 visited the facility since it was opened to the public on April 21

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Prime Ministers' Museum has welcomed over 37,000 visitors since being opened to the public on April 21, with everyone from Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, the Chief Justice of India, and business leaders visiting, according to the company operating the museum.

Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14 and thrown open to the public a week later, the museum is located at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library complex on Teen Murti Estate.

From April 21 to June 17, the museum sold 37,245 tickets, according to Tagbin, the government's design, technology and project management consultant for the project. Most visitors chose to buy tickets offline (79%), though there is a discount of ₹10 for those who book online on the entry ticket of ₹110.

VIP visitors

Sources said Union Ministers and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs were encouraged to visit the new museum by the Prime Minister, and several of them have visited so far. President Ram Nath Kovind visited along with his family.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi on April 14. • PTI

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman and Kiren Rijiju have paid a visit. Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled Uttarakhand (Pushkar Singh Dhami) and Haryana (M.L. Khattar), as well as Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal, were among the VIP visitors, a source said.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana and other holders of Constitutional posts have visited. Author and chairperson of Infosys Foundation Sudha Murthy and author Amish Tripathi were among the visitors.

Speaking about the experience of the first three months, Tagbin founder and CEO Saurav Bhaik said the museum, which is about 90% digital, had maintained a "99.9% up time" with a control room constantly monitoring the functioning of the holograms and audio-visual exhibits. To keep the largely digital museum running, he said an operations and maintenance staff of 55 people were on the job, along with specially designed software.

For visitors, the audio guide has been designed with an indoor GPS to go along with the exhibits. Mr. Bhaik said that while GPS is used outdoors, an indoor navigation system using multiple sensors and WiFi was being used in a museum for the first time to his knowledge.

He said the idea was inspired by "high security offices, like nuclear plants", where sensors are located inside the helmets of workers. Mr. Bhaik said the guide was currently available in Hindi and English, but 22 Indian languages and six international languages would be added in the coming months.

Built at a cost of ₹306 crore over 18 months, the museum is located at the erstwhile residence of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru that was converted into a memorial to him after his death.

While the original heritage building where Nehru lived continues to be largely dedicated to his life, with a few additional galleries of gifts given to PMs and other topics, a new building was constructed behind it to house the galleries on all Prime Ministers after him. A gallery on Mr. Modi is being planned, sources said.

States told to check crime against Dalits

'Deploy officers to expedite probe'

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

Expressing serious concern over crimes against the oppressed sections, particularly Dalits, the Union Home Ministry has, in an advisory to the States and Union Territories, called for identifying areas prone to atrocities against Dalits and deploying adequate manpower and infrastructure to protect the life and property of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Where no progress was seen in the investigation of cases registered under the SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, for more than 60 days, special officers in the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police should be appointed to expedite the probe. There should be no delay in registration of the FIR in such cases.

Emphasising the need for vigorous enforcement of the statutory provisions and laws relating to offences against SC/STs, the Ministry said the administration and the police should play a more proactive role in detection and investigation of crimes to ensure there was no under-reporting.

While the government must ensure proper enforcement of law and conviction in crimes committed against the SC/STs, enforcement agencies should be instructed in unambiguous terms that enforcement of the rights of the "weak and vulnerable sections" should not be downplayed.

The advisory said under the 2018 amendment to the Act, a clause was introduced wherein investigating agencies need not conduct preliminary inquiry before registering an FIR or seek approval of any authority to arrest an accused involved in the case.

The Ministry said police officers should be directed to apply the appropriate sections of law as per the statements of the victims under the Act and no dilution should be allowed which may help the perpetrators of crime against the SC/STs. Response mechanisms should be set up to promptly deal with incidents of crime against the vulnerable, oppressed and deprived sections of society.

Asking the authoritiesto ensure proper follow-up of cases of atrocities against Dalits and act on reports received from various sources, the Ministry called for ensuring proper supervision at the appropriate level from the recording of the FIR till the disposal of case.

'India, Bangladesh should work on river management'

Ready to extend assistance in managing flood: Jaishankar

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh should work together for comprehensive management of rivers, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said here on Sunday. Delivering opening remarks at the seventh round of India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission, Mr. Jaishankar welcomed his counterpart A.K. Abdul Momen and extended India's assistance in management of the annual flood in Bangladesh. He said the Indian side wished to work with Bangladesh on Artificial Intelligence, start-ups, fintech and cybersecurity.

Bilateral ties: Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar meeting his Bangladesh counterpart A.K. Abdul Momen on Sunday. • PTI

"We would also like to convey our support and solidarity at the unprecedented flooding that we have had in northern Bangladesh. We have also had in the north-east. We are now sharing flood management data for an extended period. I would like to take the opportunity to convey that if in any concrete way, we can be of assistance to you in the management of flood and relief efforts, we would be very glad to be supportive," said Mr. Jaishankar.

The Minister took up the riparian dimension of bilateral relations with Bangladesh, which is the largest trade partner of India in south Asia, and said the two sides shared 54 rivers that required Delhi and Dhaka to work together and share "environmental responsibility" in areas such as the Sundarbans.

India and Bangladesh have resolved border problems through the Land Boundary Agreement of 2015, but have been in dialogue over the sharing of multiple rivers that define the borders and impact lives and livelihoods on both sides. Bangladesh, however, has been particularly keen on receiving a fair share of the waters of the Teesta that flows through the northern part of West Bengal.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said the two teams remain focused on the "importance of safe, speedy, and sustainable return of forcibly displaced persons from Rakhine State to Myanmar, currently being sheltered by Bangladesh". Bangladesh has been hosting more than a million displaced persons from Rakhine, the Rohingya. 2022 marks the fifth year of the exile of this community.

The visit of Mr. Momen came weeks after an international controversy broke out with two BJP leaders making derogatory comments on the Prophet. Bangladesh, however, has avoided issuing a direct condemnation of the remarks unlike several other countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Officials in Dhaka had earlier told *The Hindu* that Bangladesh did not want to "trigger" an issue by raising the controversy at the bilateral level.

Airfare hike inevitable: Vistara chief

JAGRITI CHANDRA
DOHA

An increase in airfares is 'inevitable' and Vistara will also raise them if other airlines do so, its CEO, Vinod Kannan, said on Sunday. "The ATF prices have been increasing and our fares have also been increasing. As part of the overall market, we do look at market fares. We don't operate in a vacuum and if other airlines increase fares and if the function of supply and demand is there, fares will increase," Mr. Kannan said at IATA's annual general meeting in Doha.

He said that the increase in ATF means that fuel costs now account up to 40-50% of total costs for Indian airlines. Recently, SpiceJet's chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said that a minimum increase of 10-15% in airfares was 'required' as ATF prices have increased by 120% since June last year.

While the airfares till June were backed by a strong travel demand, Mr. Kannan said that it remained to be seen whether an increase in ticket prices now will dent passenger sentiment during the traditionally lean travel season between July and September.

(The writer is in Doha on the invitation of IATA)

'Child has a right to access both parents'

SC was hearing petition of a father

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court stepped into the shoes of children who find themselves in the middle of custody battles between estranged parents, saying a child is happiest when he or she can have both parents.

The top court was hearing an appeal from Rajasthan where the Family Court had rejected the father's plea for interim custody of his minor son in July 2021. The State High Court had dismissed his appeal.

In an order in which the COVID-19 pandemic features prominently, a Bench led by Justice Indira Banerjee said the lower courts' orders could not be faulted. But the SC then went on to carve several occasions, such as the son's birthdays, weekends, and summer vacations, during which the father could meet and spend time with him.

"The child would perhaps be happiest if he could have both his parents. Unfortunately, the parents are unable to resolve their differences and stay together. Be that as it may, the child has a right to access both parents, and get the love and affection of both parents. The child cannot be denied the company of his father," the top court explained.

The issue of custody and access to the child could also resume before the Family Court as "the COVID-19 situation in the country has improved", the court said.

Arunachal Christians oppose order on church

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Members of the Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF) on Saturday took out rallies across the State to protest against a high-level committee's report that allegedly went against a controversial church in Tawang.

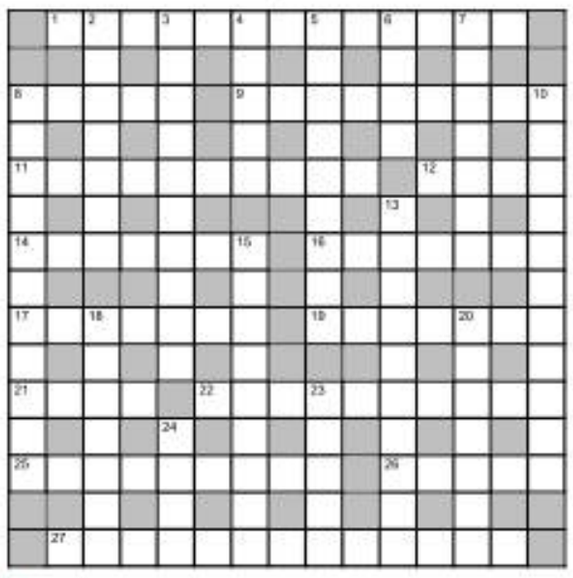
The ACF said the report was biased against the Christians and a recommendation for relocating the church was not feasible. The three-member panel on the Tawang church issue is headed by State Environment and Forest Minister Mama Natung.

TH CROSSWORD + 13587

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



ACROSS

1 Swelling around anus with red rash essentially (4,3,6)
8 Twitch after operation of the eye (5)
9 Zero jobs for failures (9)
11 Feverish tot with dengue clutching one's mum (6-4)
12 Money in wad turned soggy (4)
14 English expert stifles till one quits in final stage of chess match (7)
16 Remained embarrassed after one passed wind (7)
17 Relative on a bit of rum, getting hazy (7)
19 One getting bowled over by author around lunchtime in exotic inn (7)
21 Track around fine lawn (4)
22 Decoy having sex with English rogue for information (10)
25 Steals boxes, bringing back container with king's ornaments (9)
26 Edged ball close to slips, caught by dive to the left (5)
27 Imperious century, batting second with resolution (13)

DOWN

2 Not properly adjusted, loose nut on universal joint rotates (7)
3 Stimulated by snorting cocaine, revolting individual at university went berserk (10)
4 Fool stealing gold in French commune (5)
5 Superhero dashes backwards, saving skin (6-3)
6 Problem about husband's sentimentality (4)
7 Fat around body part, revolting in skintight garment (7)
8 Where to click precisely (2,3,6)
10 Smashing mean monitor (11)
13 Supported fantastic Indian team (10)
15 Eastern academy assembling precise listening devices (9)
18 Liqueur given by scoundrel starting to attract associate in firm (7)
20 Carries clip outside, connects to an electrical outlet (5,2)
23 Losing head, anxious about university result (5)
24 Teen idol entertaining American city (4)

SUDOKU

	1				8			
3					5	4		
9						6	5	
2			6	8				
		1	3		2	7		
				1	9			6
	7	4						2
		2	9					4
			2				8	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13586

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	6	1	3	8	4	9	5
4	5	1	6	9	7	8	3	2
8	3	9	2	4	5	6	7	1
5	9	2	4	8	1	3	6	7
1	4	3	7	6	2	9	5	8
7	6	8	9	5	3	1	2	4
3	8	4	5	7	6	2	1	9
9	2	5	3	1	4	7	8	6
6	1	7	8	2	9	5	4	3

FAITH

According to Destiny

There is nothing more destructive than envy. The undesirable events in the Mahabharata arose because of the envy of Duryodhana. Although Sakuni is seen as the mastermind of Duryodhana's evil plans, in the initial stages, Sakuni advises Duryodhana to be content with what he has. In fact, before the game of dice begins, we find quite a few people stressing the need to keep to dharma, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. Vidura advises Dritarashtra and Gandhari advises Dritarashtra. Dritarashtra is fully aware that his son's intentions are dishonourable. He also has the advice of his wife and of Vidura. Yet, he goes along with his son's plans. If in Duryodhana's case, it is envy which motivates him, in Dritarashtra's case, his affection for his son keeps him from doing the right thing.

Even so, why does Yudhishthira agree to play the game? Yudhisthira offers the explanation that Dritarashtra had ordered him to play, and how could anyone disobey the king? We might think dharma had failed in this whole gambling episode. But it is not so. The whole chain of events that followed the game were destined to happen, and who can alter Destiny? We can and must do our duties, without questioning why the results have not been as we expected. It was Vidura's and Gandhari's duty to advise the king, which they did. But the results were not what they would have liked.

Rama shows us that life and its sorrows can be summed up in just two words – "anticipation; non-acceptance." Dasaratha looks forward to coronating Rama, but dies heartbroken when Rama is exiled. Kaikeyi wants Bharata to be king, but he refuses. Only the Lord stands apart from all this, remaining calm when He is told that His coronation is to take place and then when He is told to leave the country.

INTERVIEW | RANIL WICKREMESINGHE

'Assistance to Sri Lanka has put us in the middle of geopolitics'

As Colombo readies a game plan for making economic recovery, we have got to ensure that India, China, Japan are singing the same tune, says Prime Minister

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lankan Prime Minister **Ranil Wickremesinghe**, *appointed to the post for the sixth time in extraordinary circumstances last month, is tasked with setting the country's economy on track amid a crushing economic downturn. While the international community welcomed his appointment, protesting Sri Lankan citizens accuse him of "making a deal" with the Rajapaksas, and protecting the first family. Mr. Wickremesinghe speaks on his plans for economic recovery, foreign assistance, and political prospects. Excerpts:*

It has been over a month since you took charge as PM. What are your key interventions so far?

■ I would say the key intervention is in the economy. By next month, we will certainly be able to deal with the issue of fuel. We have been able to use the Indian credit line. We have also been finding some money, Sri Lanka on its own, and we got the fuel in. We want to have uninterrupted supply and we feel by next month, we should be able to handle it.

We have started the discussion with the IMF [International Monetary Fund]. We are also having Lazard and Clifford Chance [financial and legal advisers] in here. We are trying to finish the IMF staff-level agreement by the end of this month. Then we have to wait for the debt restructuring plan. That will give us a clear indication of what we have to do. By July, I also hope to bring in the interim budget. Then we go on to the next one, the donor conference. There, we have got to ensure that India, China, Japan all are singing the same tune.

Apart from Indian assistance [$3.5 billion], you have sought help from China and Japan. You have especially urged the Quad grouping to take the lead in setting up an aid consortium for Sri Lanka. How are they all responding?

■ Well, there are two main members of the Quad who are involved, that is, India and Japan. India has taken the lead so far in providing assistance. I must say that Indian assistance has helped us get through these difficult times.

We have just started communicating with Japan, and speaking about this, because the relations are strained for some time. In addition to this, we have China also coming in. Now we have two Quad members, and one Belt and Road [Initiative] member. And we have one Paris Club member, that is Japan, and two non-Paris Club members, India and China. So we are in the middle of geopolitics [laughs].

Are you expecting any further assistance from India apart from the $3.5 billion committed?

■ We are hoping to get an additional $500 million assistance for fuel.

There has to be austerity, but we want it to be on a short term so that by 2024, we can start moving

India's assistance to Sri Lanka, and expressed willingness to work with India and the international community to help Sri Lanka. Is China willing to support Sri Lanka's debt restructure initiative backed by the IMF?

■ I think they will certainly do that. We will speak with them. And I hope at some time the three countries, Japan, China and India, will speak with each other. China has acknowledged India's contribution. I think it is a good start, but there will be so many other issues to be debated.

Some are raising concern over an IMF programme, saying that the conditions that come with it could be tough. Do you think Sri Lanka will be forced to go down the austerity path for some time?

■ Well, if you look at it now, I think we agreed with the IMF that the vulnerable groups have to be supported. If you look at some of what are called tough conditions, even if the IMF is not there, we would have had to do it. The advantage of going with the IMF is that you get money through the Extended Fund Facility. If you do it on your own, you get nothing. If you go with the IMF, you get something or maybe everything.

On austerity, yes there has to be austerity, but we want it to be on a short term so that by 2024, we can start moving. 2023 is going to be a difficult year, because while we may make an improvement, the global GDP growth is now down to 2.9%. We still don't know if it will go further down because of the Ukraine war, and the inflation in the West and issues in China.

The Adani Group's entry into the energy sector has become controversial, with many in Sri Lanka asking how they got in, in the absence of an international bidding process. Wouldn't this deter other potential investors and affect the country's image?

■ Adani Group has brought in $500 million, which we need at the moment. It is a good sign that investors are coming in. Sri Lanka's potential for renewable energy, wind power, is big.

I don't think all the big companies coming in here will be able to fully exploit it. So, we have no problem about Adani coming in.

If the Indian government was really interested, I would have been told about this by Prime Minister Modi or his office. I haven't got any request to expedite it.

Look, if anyone else in India wants to invest another $500 million [project], I am not objecting [laughs]. If a third party wants it, we will give it to them. In this position, are we to throw $500 million away?

Your government faces a severe crisis of credibility, citizens' protests are going on against the President, you, this government. How will the government restore confidence among citizens, that too when it must adopt tough measures to cope with the crisis?

■ Firstly, the 21st Amendment was discussed by all the parties, the government and outside, and it will be put before Cabinet next Monday. Then, on Tuesday, we will have to also look at the Supreme Court determination on the Leader of the Opposition and the SJB's [Samagi Jana Balawegaya, the main Opposition party] draft amendment to see how it interacts with the SC determination.

What about political credibility in the eyes of citizens?

■ So that will be the first step of building political credibility.

Secondly, I have put some proposals about the committee systems in Parliament. It is a sort of a step-by-step operation, but I think these two will be big.

You were brought in at such a crucial time to set the economy in order. Do you have the political backing of the President and the ruling party?

■ In my case, on the 9th of May, some of the backbench MPs wanted me to be Prime Minister [after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned]. The situation was serious, and I thought someone had to do the job. So as I came in, I had the support of some of the backbenchers. Then later on the support built up, the President and the party gave me the support.

(For full interview, visit https://bit.ly/3bcyqh7)

Ukraine war could last years: NATO chief

West must offer long-term support to Kyiv: Stoltenberg

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

NATO's chief warned that the war in Ukraine could last "for years" as President Volodymyr Zelensky vowed on Sunday that his forces would not give up the south of the country to Russia after his first visit to the frontline there.

Ukraine said it had also repulsed fresh attacks by Russian forces on the eastern front, where there have been weeks of fierce battles as Moscow tries to seize the industrial Donbas region.

Intense attack: Firefighters working to douse a blaze which broke out after Russian shelling in Mykolaiv. • AP

While Ukraine remained defiant, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned Western countries must be ready to offer long-term support to Kyiv during a grinding war. "We must be prepared for this to last for years," Mr. Stoltenberg told German daily *Bild*.

"We must not weaken in our support of Ukraine, even if the costs are high – not only in terms of military support but also because of rising energy and food prices."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson issued a similar warning, urging sustained support for Kyiv or risk "the greatest victory for aggression" since Second World War. "Time is now the vital factor," Mr. Johnson wrote in an article for the *Sunday Times*, calling for the West to ensure Ukraine has the "strategic endurance to survive and eventually prevail".

Mr. Zelensky, after making a trip to the Black Sea-city of Mykolaiv and the Odessa region on Saturday, said, "We will not give away the south to anyone, we will return everything that's ours and the sea will be Ukrainian and safe."

Sri Lankan troops open fire to contain fuel riots

Four civilians, three soldiers injured in clashes, say police

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's military opened fire to contain rioting at a fuel station, officials said on Sunday as unprecedented queues for petrol and diesel were seen across the bankrupt country.

Troops fired in Visuvamadu, 365 kilometres north of Colombo, on Saturday night as their guard point was pelted with stones, Army spokesman Nilantha Premaratne said. "A group of 20 to 30 people threw stones and damaged an Army truck," Mr. Premaratne said.

The police said four civilians and three soldiers were wounded when the Army opened fire for the first time to quell unrest linked to the worsening economic crisis.

As the pump ran out of petrol, motorists began to protest and the situation escalated into a clash with the troops, the police said.

Sri Lanka is suffering its worst economic crisis since independence, with the country unable to find dollars to import essentials, including food and fuel.

IS claims terror attack on gurdwara in Kabul

'An act of support for the Prophet'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KABUL

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly terror attack on a gurdwara in Afghanistan's capital Kabul that killed two persons, including one Sikh community member, calling it "an act of support" for the Prophet.

Several blasts tore through Gurdwara Karte Parwan in Kabul's Bagh-e Bala neighbourhood on Saturday while Afghan security personnel thwarted a bigger tragedy by stopping an explosive-laden vehicle from reaching the place of worship of the minority community.

In a statement posted on its Amaq propaganda site late on Saturday, the Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISKP), an affiliate of the Islamic State militant group, said the attack targeted Hindus and Sikhs and the "apostates" who protected them in "an act of support for the Messenger of Allah".

A Taliban fighter standing guard outside a gurdwara in Kabul. • AFP

The terror attack came days after the ISKP in a video message warned of an attack against Hindus to avenge the remarks against Prophet Muhammed by two former BJP functionaries.

Palestinian shot dead by Israeli forces in W. Bank

He vandalised a security fence: Army

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RAMALLAH

A Palestinian worker was shot dead by Israeli forces on Sunday while crossing a security barrier in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the man killed as Nabil Ghanem, 53, from the West Bank city of Nablus.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Ghanem was among the tens of thousands of West Bank Palestinians who regularly seek work in Israel.

An Israeli Army spokesperson said forces had shot at "a suspect who vandalised the security fence".

Wages on Israeli farms and construction sites are far higher than what most Palestinian employers can pay in the West Bank, a territory occupied by Israeli since 1967.

Jobs inside Israel are highly coveted by many Palestinians. Some have permits to work in Israel while others seek to cross without authorisation.

Ghanem's killing comes amid a spike in Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Nineteen people, mostly Israeli civilians – including 18 inside Israel and a Jewish settler – have been killed in attacks by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs since late March.

Israeli security forces have responded with raids inside Israel and in the West Bank, particularly in and around Jenin. Three Israeli Arab attackers and an Israeli police commando have been killed.

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IN BRIEF

Apple workers vote to unionise at U.S. store

SAN FRANCISCO

A majority of employees at a U.S. Apple store have voted to form the tech giant's first union, in the wake of similar unionisation drives at Starbucks and Amazon locations. Of the 110 employees at the Towson, Maryland shop, 65 voted in favour and 33 against. The vote comes after a group of employees called AppleCORE (Coalition of Organized Retail Employees) campaigned for unionisation, demanding a say in deciding on wages, hours and safety measures. "We did it Towson! We won our union vote!... Now we celebrate... Tomorrow we keep organising," AppleCORE tweeted. AFP

Macron alliance projected to lose parliamentary majority

It will make it harder for him to push through tax cut, reforms

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron's alliance got the most seats in the final round of the parliamentary election on Sunday, but it lost its parliamentary majority, projections show.

The projections, which are based on partial results, show that Mr. Macron's candidates would win between 200 and 250 seats – much less than the 289 required to have a straight majority at the National Assembly, France's most powerful house of Parliament.

French President Emmanuel Macron leaves after casting his vote on Sunday. • AFP

Political manoeuvring

The situation, which is unusual in France, is expected to make Mr. Macron's political manoeuvring difficult if the projections are borne out.

A new coalition – made up of the hard left, the Socialists and the Greens – is projected to become the main Opposition force with about 150 to 200 seats.

The far-right National Rally is projected to register a huge surge with potentially more than 80 seats, up from eight before.

Polls are being held nationwide to select the 577 members of the National Assembly.

The strong performance of the leftist coalition, led by hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon's coalition, is expected to make it harder for Mr. Macron to implement the agenda he was re-elected on in May, including tax cuts and raising France's retirement age from 62 to 65.

Mr. Macron's government will still have the ability to rule, but only by bargaining with legislators.

ASK US

K. NITYA KALYANI

Q. I retired from a Central Government PSU last year after 34 years of service. My Public Provident Fund account will mature in 2024 with about ₹13 lakh in the credit.
On receiving retirement benefits such as Gratuity, I also invested in Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, RBI bonds and a life insurance policy.
Having observed I still have sufficient savings left, I recently invested in a long-term savings plan combined with life insurance. My annual premium on this is ₹1.25 lakh.
Now, I am wondering if I made a mistake in taking such a long-term policy considering I am 60 now. Please suggest withdrawal options.

T. V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM

A. The policy you mention offers life coverage through 20 years with premium being payable only for 12 years and annual money-back payments from the 12th to the 19th year. The money back is structured to be at a rate of 9.5% of your annual premium.

So, what you will get is life coverage until age 80, a pre-determined cashflow from age 72 to 80 and a survival benefit equal to the sum assured. Life insurance is best bought for risk cover only. Buying one combined with investment, savings or any of the other terms used just clouds the issue.

Is there a specific reason why you opted for life insurance at retirement age? Let us break down the benefits of this policy and see if this is the most efficient fit for your needs.

The first phase is, in effect, a 12-year interest-free recurring deposit equal to your annual premium. At the end of 12 years, it behaves like a fixed deposit that gives you 9.5% for the 8 years following. At the end of year 20, you get the survival or maturity benefit which is like the return of principal of your fixed deposit. The pluses are that all the payouts of this policy are tax-free. Plus, there is life coverage for 20 years.

If you need the life coverage, please research your insurer's website for a term policy of similar sum assured with return of premium and limited premium paying term options. The premium undoubtedly will be much less. The difference between the two premiums fetches you the FD-like return.

Remember you don't get any interest for 12 years, so adjust the equivalent of recurring deposit interest. If this return makes sense, retain the policy.

If you are otherwise well invested and don't have anyone you want to support with a life insurance claim amount, you can come out of this policy. If you want the life coverage, buy a term policy and invest the differential premium elsewhere.

For ending the policy, there are three options with different levels of financial loss from your side. If you have paid a certain number of annual premiums, you can surrender the policy and get back a percentage of the premiums you have paid.

The other option is if you have paid a certain number of annual premiums you will get the option to make the policy 'paid up'. You don't have to pay further premium and the life coverage continues for the same term but highly reduced sum assured. Surrender and paid-up conditions differ from policy to policy and company to company, so please do your research. If you qualify for neither of the options above, stop paying premiums and the policy will lapse. You will write off the premium you have paid.

Q. My wife is 21. She has been suffering from acute pancreatitis from birth, which is an anatomical disorder. I am unable to purchase health insurance from private health insurance companies as they are declining my proposal citing underwriting guidelines. Can't a person with some health issues from birth purchase insurance?
Is purchase of health insurance totally based on the insurer's decision? Kindly guide me.
If I purchase health insurance for myself and pay premium for three years, should I apply for tax deduction under 80D for total premium for 3 years or only the premium for current year as I had paid for 3 years at once?

SRINATH INUGANTI

A. Many medical conditions, acute or chronic, congenital or otherwise, represent an almost certain risk of high treatment costs.

Insurance companies' business is to insure a contingency, not a certainty. That is, they can insure something that may happen, but not something that is almost certain to happen because it will lead to a loss. This is why they have pre-existing diseases exclusions and waiting times before some conditions and procedures/ treatments are covered and it all depends on medical history, morbidity patterns, treatment protocols available and outcomes.

The decision whether to accept a risk or not, called underwriting, is at the entire discretion of the insurance company and it is their business decision.

Specialised health insurance companies may have a more nuanced approach to underwriting such cases due to their experience, expertise and data. Please talk to them and they may even fashion a cover for you if you are lucky.

Regarding 80D benefits for health insurance premium, the income tax department has clarified that premium paid for multi-year insurance policies cannot be all claimed in one year. You can claim it only proportionally over the period of the cover. This is a point worth double checking with your insurance company or agent as well as your CA.

(The adviser is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Gear up for more headwinds

Investors must be well-prepared to grab bargain opportunities in the coming future

ANAND SRINIVASAN
SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

Over the past two years, the world has seen phenomenal monetary and fiscal intervention to forestall the economic effects of a COVID-19 recession.

After continuous easy monetary and fiscal policy, central banks and governments worldwide are tightening their belts.

The U.S. has promised several rate hikes over the next few quarters, setting the trend for the rest of the countries. The U.S. dollar acts as the reserve currency, which means that a hike in the U.S. interest rate will lead to the depreciation of most other currencies while the dollar swells in strength.

The swelling dollar is especially detrimental to India on two accounts: 1) The price of imports, namely oil and food imports, will become much more expensive, and 2) Money will flow out of our capital markets chasing the dollar. This scenario is reminiscent of the famous speculator George Soros's Reagan's imperial circle, wherein the U.S. Budget deficit increased while interest rates rose. This meant that the U.S. economy recovered while making its currency stronger.

Consumption, as well as growth, was funded by foreign goods and capital. However, the circle was vicious for other countries.

High inflation, low growth

India will face high inflation and low growth due to a multitude of factors. The inflation from import prices will surely hurt the economy, and accounts of both industries and ordinary consumers.

A higher interest rate regime would mean that the government's fiscal deficit increases further due to a higher borrowing rate on G-Secs. The government will have to cut down on fuel taxes to account for the rise in oil prices, further decreasing revenue. As Warren Buffet had stated, interest rates act as gravity for stock prices.

The stock market should ideally correct accordingly to a rate hike by the RBI. Moreover, current G-sec holders might also face a haircut due to rising rates depending on their yield and coupon rate.

Principle of shrinkflation

Additionally, the FMCG industry (and others) will find it difficult due to narrowing margins from high inflation and the inability to raise prices. However, they deal with rising costs and stagnant prices by utilising the principle known as shrinkflation. One reduces the quantity of the goods sold while keeping the price constant (you might have noticed your biscuit packets getting lighter). Although FMCG companies could try to sustain their profit margins, it is hard to imagine a world where they can support growth in sales and earnings.

Investors should sit tight and wait for further developments in the next few months, avoiding any bouts of investment while passively indexing.

The two big export industries which India boasts of are IT and Pharma. On the one hand, a depreciating rupee is a positive factor for these companies as they make their money in dollars. Therefore, at least in the short run, they gain from changes in the exchange rate.

Signalling recession

However, rising rates in the U.S. would signal a recession leading to a reduction in consumption. Lower business activity levels would transition into problems for the IT industry especially. Moreover, domestic business activity is also set to face hurdles due to rising rates and tightening fiscal expenditure. These factors have a double-whammy effect in hurting the IT industry, which had weathered the COVID-19 storm relatively well. Additionally, export duties and bans play a significant role in harming metal exports. The metal industry, which had done well, now faces growing pressures from trade restrictions imposed on it. Therefore, it will be challenging to benefit from the depreciating exchange rate.

The increase in exports due to depreciation acts as a stabilising factor for the currency, without which the depreciation could be more potent. Furthermore, higher interest rates also affect the cement industry, which thrives in a low-interest rate regime. Cement companies will face muted demand due to higher rates and higher costs due to rising fuel prices.

The automobile industry is another sector that benefits from a low-interest rate regime. Higher import costs combined with a high interest rate act as headwinds in the automobile industry.

These factors, however, are excellent indicators for the investor as they signal lower prices ahead.

Investors should currently sit tight and wait for further developments in the next few months, avoiding any bouts of investment while passively indexing.

In times like these, it is essential to remember a quote by Baron Rothschild (a formidable 18th-century banker), "buy when there is blood in the streets".

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant and Sashwath Swaminathan is a research associate at Aionion investment services)

THINK INVESTOR: NITTY-GRITTY

Which do you fear: trading or losing?

Learning technical analysis empowers you with the ability to earn money

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

Long-term investment and diversification are two concepts that are so ingrained in most individuals that thinking otherwise is considered sinful.

Small wonder that many individuals consider learning technical analysis a waste of time; for technical analysis is considered taking concentrated bets for the short term. In this article, we look at other reasons to explain why individuals could be averse to learning technical analysis. We also show why technical analysis could be a useful skill to acquire.

Effort vs. reward

'Investors' are supposed to take a lot of effort. Also, 'investors' are patient and disciplined. That means they wait for a long time before selling an investment. 'Traders' take short-term bets; some even call it speculation. Therefore, individuals prefer to be 'investors' rather than 'traders.'

Getting into the groove: Investors can take steps to understand how to trade applying chart patterns. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

But, it is not that individuals do not want to trade. It is just that they do not want to lose! Understandably so, because of loss aversion. This refers to our attitude towards gains and losses. For instance, a loss of ₹10,000 can cause us more pain than a gain of ₹10,000 can give us happiness. It is, therefore, not difficult to understand the lack of interest and belief in technical analysis; for 'traders' typically know their outcome in the short term whereas 'investors' know their outcome over the long term.

So, 'investors' suffer pain from losses, if any, only in the distant future. There is also the illusion of control. Many believe they have more control over their investments over the long term.

In the short term, markets are volatile; the chart pattern that gave you handsome returns in one month could prove disastrous the next month. Short-term is indeed volatile, but long term is a series of such short-term movements. So, if your long-term investment carries unrealised short-term losses of 30%, it must gain 43% over your remaining holding period to recover the losses.

Investors vs. traders

A popular understanding is that investors focus on long term returns while traders aim for short term gains. Also, investors apply fundamental analysis while traders use technical analysis. This is not necessarily true. You can use technical analysis for any time frame, but you cannot use fundamental analysis for the short term.

It is, therefore, more appropriate to define investors and traders from a source-of-returns perspective. We define investors as ones who make investments for income returns. For instance, buying shares for dividend income.

Traders, on the other hand, look for capital appreciation. From this perspective, we can conclude that most of us are traders. Why? For one, it is not tax efficient to invest for dividend income. For another, with stock prices at high levels, dividend yield is low.

Now, if you are comfortable calling yourself a trader, then you should consider learning technical analysis. There is a benefit in doing so. The Indian automobile industry, for instance, is quite different from its U.S. counterpart. That means your skill at picking Tata Motors based on fundamentals cannot be applied for investing in Ford Motors. On the other hand, chart patterns are the same across listed asset classes and geographies. So, technical analysis can help you buy Tata Motors and Tesla, trade a currency pair or a commodity anywhere in the world.

Conclusion

Learning technical analysis empowers you with the ability to earn money, capturing short term market movements. This skill is portable; you can trade in new markets if your job takes you to another country.

Unlike an engineer or a doctor, you do not need specialised qualifications to be a trader. So, you can continue to call technical analysis a waste of your time and ignore it.

Or, you can accept that it is, perhaps, fear that is holding you back and take steps to understand how to trade applying chart patterns. The choice is yours.

(The author offers training programme for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
AU Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.25	6.75	6.75
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.30	6.00	6.00	6.00
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.85	6.50	6.75	6.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.25	6.50	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.35	7.00	7.25	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.20	6.70	6.50	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.90	6.75	6.75
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Axis Bank	5.75	5.45	5.70	5.75
Bandhan Bank	6.25	5.75	6.25	5.60
CSB Bank	6.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.00	5.30	6.00	6.00
DCB Bank	6.60	6.00	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	5.75	5.35	5.50	5.70
ICICI Bank	5.75	5.30	5.50	5.70
IDFC First Bank	6.25	6.00	6.00	6.25
IndusInd Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.50
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.55	5.20	5.50	5.55
Karnataka Bank	5.50	5.25	5.40	5.40
Karur Vysya Bank	5.80	5.40	5.65	5.80
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.90	5.50	5.90	5.90
Nainital Bank	5.40	5.20	5.35	5.40
RBL Bank	6.65	6.25	6.30	6.30
SBM Bank India	6.60	6.00	5.85	5.85
South Indian Bank	5.80	5.30	5.50	5.80
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.25	5.60	5.60
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Bank of Baroda	5.50	5.00	5.50	5.35
Bank of India	5.20	5.00	5.20	5.20
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Canara Bank	5.75	5.30	5.70	5.75
Indian Bank	5.35	5.10	5.35	5.35
Indian Overseas Bank	5.60	5.40	5.60	5.60
Punjab National Bank	5.60	5.20	5.30	5.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.55	5.25	5.55	5.55
State Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.45	5.50
Union Bank of India	5.80	5.35	5.50	5.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citibank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.25	6.25	7.00
HSBC Bank	5.50	3.10	4.00	4.00

Home loan interest rates

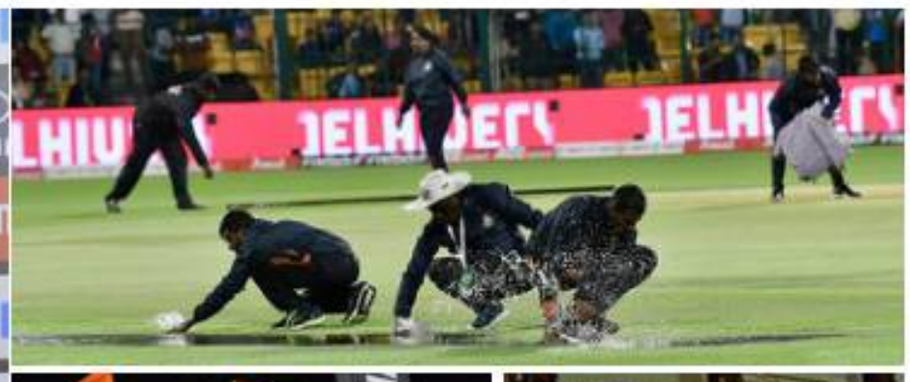
Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(in %)
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	7.55-8.55	7.55-8.45	7.55-8.45
Bank of Baroda	7.45-8.95	7.45-8.95	7.45-9.20
Union Bank of India	7.40-9.15	7.40-9.35	7.40-9.35
Punjab National Bank	7.45-8.85	7.40-8.55	7.40-8.50
Bank of India	6.90-8.75	6.90-8.75	6.90-8.75
Canara Bank	7.05-11.85	7.05-11.85	7.05-11.85
UCO Bank	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60
Bank of Maharashtra	7.30-9.20	7.30-9.35	7.30-9.45
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50
Indian Overseas Bank	7.05-7.40	7.15-7.40	7.30-7.40
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50
ICICI Bank	7.60-8.20	7.60-8.35	7.60-8.45
Axis Bank	7.60-12.50	7.60-12.50	7.60-8.05
HSBC Bank	6.85-7.75	6.85-7.75	6.85-7.75
South Indian Bank	7.75-10.50	7.75-10.50	7.75-10.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35
Karnataka Bank	7.74-8.99	7.74-8.99	7.74-9.09
Federal Bank	8.55-8.60	8.60-8.65	8.65-8.70
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.95	7.95	7.95
Bandhan Bank	7.30-13.50	7.30-12.65	7.30-12.65
RBL Bank	10.30-12.00	8.70-9.10	8.70-9.00
CSB Bank	8.30	8.30	8.63
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
LIC Housing Finance	6.90-8.00	6.90-8.20	6.90-8.40
HDFC Ltd.	7.55-8.75	7.55-9.00	7.55-9.10
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards
Tata Capital	>=7.75	>=7.75	>=7.75
PNB Housing Finance	6.99-16.75	6.99-16.75	7.15-10.15
GIC Housing Finance	>=7.74	>=7.74	>=7.74
Repco Home Finance	>=7.45	>=7.45	>=7.45
Indiabulls Housing	>=7.60	>=7.60	>=7.60
Aditya Birla Capital	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	6.94-9.99	6.94-9.99	6.94-9.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on June 17

Source: Paisabazaar.com

Rain plays spoilsport in decider; India, South Africa share series

Only 3.3 overs of action witnessed in the final match due to persistent downpour; first rain-abandoned T20I in eight outings at the Chinnaswamy Stadium



Honours even: It was a 2-2 result after rain had the final say in the fifth T20I despite the best efforts of the groundstaff, leaving the vociferous fans disappointed. • K. MURALI KUMAR

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ishan Kishan b Ngidi 15 *(7b, 2x6)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Pretorius b Ngidi 10 *(12b, 1x4)*, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 0 *(1b)*, Rishabh Pant (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for two wkts. in 3.3 overs): 28.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Kishan, 1.6 overs), 2-27 (Ruturaj, 3.2).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Maharaj 1-0-16-0, Ngidi 1.3-0-6-2, Rabada 1-0-5-0.

Toss: South Africa.

No Result. Five-match series drawn 2-2. **Player-of-the-series:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

India-South Africa T20I series in numbers

Batting	M	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Ishan Kishan	5	5	206	76	150.36	2
Heinrich Klaasen	4	3	118	81	151.28	1
Hardik Pandya	5	4	117	46	153.94	0
Rassie van der Dussen	5	4	97	75*	125.97	1
Bowling	**M**	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BBI**	**Econ**	**4W**
Harshal Patel	5	4	7	4/25	7.23	1
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	5	4	6	4/13	6.07	1
Yuzvendra Chahal	5	4	6	3/20	8.18	0
Dwaine Pretorius	5	4	5	2/29	9.66	0

SA IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

The bilateral T20I series between India and South Africa ended in a 2-2 stalemate after the fifth and final encounter here on Sunday was abandoned due to rain.

The threat of a damp squib finale to the series was on the cards, given that the city had witnessed heavy night showers for the past couple of weeks.

Only 3.3 overs were bowled, before a second round of persistent rain forced the umpires to shut shop at 9.35 p.m..

There were ominous signs even before a ball was bowled. Just as the players entered the field for the scheduled start of play, they were greeted with a sharp downpour.

The Indian batters, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan, barely reached the pitch before they had to run back for cover. The SubAir drainage system at the venue got the outfield dry and ready in quick time, but a second interruption would prove to be the last.

In the 16 minutes of action witnessed by a large, naturally disappointed crowd at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, there were a few highlights. Kishan whacked a couple of sixes off Keshav Maharaj, who stood in as skipper for the indisposed Temba Bavuma. Pacer Lungi Ngidi deceived Kishan and Ruturaj with brilliant slower balls.

This was the first rain-abandoned T20I in the eight outings held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The series will be remembered for the exploits of Dinesh Karthik, who made an inspired comeback to international cricket. His match-winning 55 in the fourth outing at Rajkot helped make a strong case for his inclusion in the squad for the ICC T20 World Cup later this year.

Rishabh Pant, who led the side in the absence of the rested Rohit Sharma and the injured K.L. Rahul, had a disappointing run in his first full series as captain. He underperformed with the bat, finishing with a series average of 14.50.

That the playing XI remained unchanged in all five outings showed that head coach Rahul Dravid is not one to chop and change. This policy, which allows players a great deal of freedom and stability, paid dividends in the case of fast bowler Avesh Khan.

Avesh failed to grab a wicket in the first three outings, but came to the party at Rajkot with a four-for. If Avesh was thrilled to gain the full confidence of the team management, his counterpart Umran Malik – mighty impressive in the IPL with his raw pace – would be disappointed to not get a look-in.

West Indies takes 1-0 lead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NORTH SOUND

John Campbell smashed the winning six as West Indies needed just seven overs to beat Bangladesh by seven wickets on the fourth day of the first Test on Sunday.

Campbell was unbeaten on 58 and vice-captain Jermaine Blackwood was not out on 26 as the hosts reached the target of 84, finishing with 88 for three.

On day three, pacer Kemar Roach took five for 53 as Bangladesh was shot out for 245 in its second innings.

The scores: Bangladesh 103 & 245 in 90.5 overs (Mahmudul Hasan 42, Shakib Al Hasan 63, Nurul Hasan 64; Kemar Roach 5/53, Alzarri Joseph 3/55) lost to West Indies 265 & 88/3 in 22 overs (John Campbell 58 n.o.).

Nissanka and Mendis do it for Sri Lanka

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka, powered by Pathum Nissanka (137, 147b, 11x4, 2x6) and Kusal Mendis (87 retd. hurt, 85b, 8x4), stormed to a six-wicket win over Australia with nine balls to spare in the third ODI here on Sunday. Sri Lanka leads 2-1 in the five-match series. Earlier, Travis Head scored an unbeaten 70 as Australia reached 291 for six.

The scores: Australia 291/6 in 50 overs (Aaron Finch 62, Alex Carey 49, Travis Head 70 n.o., Glenn Maxwell 33, Jeffrey Vandersay 3/49) lost to Sri Lanka 292/4 in 48.3 overs (Pathum Nissanka 137, Kusal Mendis 87 retd. hurt).

England seals series

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMSTELVEEN

England recorded a six-wicket win over Netherlands in a rain-affected second ODI on Sunday and clinched the three-match series with a game to spare.

Set 236 to win off 41 overs, England reached the target with 29 balls to spare – but only after a mid-innings wobble that saw captain Eoin Morgan depart for a seven-ball duck to go with his golden duck from the first match.

The scores: Netherlands 235/7 in 41 overs (Bas de Leede 38, Scott Edwards 78) lost to England 239/4 in 36.1 overs (Jason Roy 73, Phil Salt 77, Dawid Malan 36 n.o., Moeen Ali 42 n.o.).

'Karthik, Hardik our enforcers at the death'

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

India head coach Rahul Dravid stated that comeback man Dinesh Karthik is "banging the doors down" after his splendid match-winning knock in the fourth T20I against South Africa at Rajkot. He added that Karthik's performance opens options in terms of his long-term international prospects.

"Karthik was picked for a specific skill – something he has done exceptionally well in the last two-three years. It's nice that his selection has been vindicated. It came together brilliantly at Rajkot, where we needed that big performance in the last five overs to make a par score. Karthik and Hardik (Pandya) batted wonderfully for us.

"Both Karthik and Hardik are our enforcers at the death. They can capitalise in the last five-six overs as well as anyone in the world. It's good to see Karthik do well. I was telling the guys that they have to bang the doors open, not just knock. An innings like that (at Rajkot) certainly means that Karthik is banging hard," Dravid said at a press conference on Sunday.

On Rishabh Pant's poor form in this bilateral series, Dravid said, "It is hard to judge performances in two-three games when we're asking our batters to play an attacking brand of cricket in the middle overs. Pant had a good IPL. His average may not have looked good, but his strike rate was very good. We were trying to get these numbers in international cricket as well.

"Pant remains an integral part of our batting line-up, with the power that he has. He's certainly a big part of our plans going ahead in the next few months," Dravid said.

Perfect response: Karthik was picked for a specific skill and vindicated the decision, says Dravid. • VIJAY SONEJI

Women in Blue land in Lanka

Harmanpreet's team will play three T20Is and as many ODIs

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led Indian women's cricket team arrived here on Sunday for its limited-over tour of Sri Lanka, with the first T20I beginning at Dambulla on June 23.

Without senior players like Mithali Raj, who has announced her retirement, and veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami, a young Indian team will play three T20Is and as many ODIs at Dambulla and Pallekele respectively.

The Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) welcomed the visiting team, coached by Ramesh Powar, on its arrival and also posted pictures and visuals on its social media handles.

Prior to its departure, the Indian team underwent a camp at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and also interacted with NCA head V.V.S. Laxman.

According to Harmanpreet, the tour was a great opportunity to build the team.

"We are working hard on our team, we have great combinations. And for us, it is a good tour to start, because first-time we are going to play without our seniors and a great opportunity for all of us to build a team," Harmanpreet had said on Saturday.

In charge: Harmanpreet will be keen to guide India to an impressive performance in Sri Lanka. • TWITTER/BCCIWOMEN

PM Modi flags off torch relay

Will be taken to 75 cities in a span of 40 days

CHESS OLYMPIAD

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

In a fitting tribute to the cerebral sport that India gave to the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first-ever Chess Olympiad Torch Relay to trigger off the countdown to the sport's biggest event scheduled at Mahabalipuram, near Chennai, from July 28.

In a symbolic gesture following a gala ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here, the Prime Minister faced country's top-ranked woman player Koneru Humpy over a chessboard and made a ceremonial move.

Later, the World Chess Federation (FIDE) President Arkady Dvorkovich handed over the torch to Modi, who in turn passed it to five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand.

The country's first Grandmaster received the torch and jogged a few yards for the cheering spectators on his way out of the arena.

Addressing the gathering, Modi noted, "Today the first torch relay for Chess Olympiad is starting from India. We are proud that a sport, starting from its birthplace and leaving its mark all over the world, has become a passion for many countries."

Matter of pride

Earlier, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur took pride in stating that the FIDE had agreed to have the commencement of the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay from India for every subsequent edition of this mega event.

Due to paucity of time, the torch relay will pass through 75 Indian cities before culminating at Mahabalipuram on July 27.

World champion and top ranked Magnus Carlsen will lead the creamy layer of the players from around 189 countries.

Three players test positive

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

R. Praggnanandhaa, Soumya Swaminathan and Vantika Agarwal tested positive for COVID on Sunday, hours before the launch of the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay.

Many members of the Indian Olympiad teams had reached the Capital on Saturday.

Soon after their arrival from Chennai, the players and officials were tested and the reports were released on Sunday afternoon. The three players stayed in their hotel rooms while the rest headed to the Indira Gandhi Stadium.

Making the first move: Prime Minister Modi after handing over the flame to Anand in New Delhi on Sunday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Indian women lose to Argentina

Netherlands men pip India, emerge champions

FIH PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ROTTERDAM

The Indian women's hockey team squandered a one-goal lead to lose 2-3 to Olympic silver medallist Argentina in the second match of the double-leg FIH Pro League tie here on Sunday.

Argentina won the crown with 42 points from 16 games, 10 clear of second placed Netherlands, which still has two games remaining. India continued to occupy the third spot with 24 points from 12 games.

Both teams fought tooth and nail in the first quarter but failed to break the deadlock. India broke the stalemate in the 23rd minute, scoring through a counter-attack with Salima Tete showing her speed by cutting through the Argentine defence before taking a shot that deflected in off goalkeeper Belen Succi's stick.

In attack mode

After the change of ends, Argentina came out attacking and controlled the game for a major part of the third quarter. India struggled to match Argentina's pace and play was mostly centred inside the Indian half.

In the 37th minute, Savita came to her side's rescue by denying Jankunas from close range.

But Argentina was not to be denied a minute later when Delfine Thome did enough to loop the ball over a stretched Savita after she was set up by Sofia Toccalino's brilliant run from the right flank.

Argentina then scored twice in three minutes from two penalty corners to take a 3-1 lead.

In the 46th minute, Deep Grace Ekka scored from a penalty corner with a fierce slap shot to reduce the margin to 2-3.

India will next play USA on June 21 and 22.

Disappointing

Later, the Indian men's team's title hopes went up in smoke after suffering a 1-2 defeat to the Netherlands in the second match of the two-leg tie.

India had lost 1-4 to the Dutch in the shoot-out on Saturday after both the sides finished 2-2 at the end of the regulation 60 minutes.

India needed an outright win to have an outside chance of clinching the tile, but it was not to be.

Netherlands won the men's title with 36 points from 14 games and has two games still to play. Olympic champion Belgium finished second with 35 points from 16 games, while India was third with 30 points from 16 matches.

India started on a strong note, taking the lead inside 30 seconds with a brilliant field goal by Abhishek.

But the Dutch forged their way into the game by levelling the scores in the seventh minute through a penalty corner conversion by Jip Janssen.

The results:

Men: The Netherlands 2 (Janssen 7, Croon 45) bt India 1 (Abhishek 1).

Women: India 2 (Salima 23, Grace 48) lost to Argentina 3 (Thome 38, Trinchinetti 41, Gorzelani 43).

Full of verve: The Indian women produced a spirited show before going down to Argentina. • TWITTER/FIHPROLEAGUE

Fraser-Pryce runs away with it

Fraser-Pryce. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce hammered home her status as World championship favourite on Saturday by equalling her world-best time this year to win the 100m at the Paris Diamond League meeting.

The Jamaican triumphed in 10.67s, equalling the 2022 best time she set in Nairobi in May.

Britain's Daryll Neita was second in 10.99s with Marie-Josee Ta Lou of Ivory Coast third in 11.01s.

The winners: Women: 100m: Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jam) 10.67s; **High jump:** Yaroslava Mahuchikh (Ukr) 2.01m; **3000m steeplechase:** Winfred Mutile Yavi (Bah) 8:56.55s; **100m hurdles:** Tobi Amusan (Ngr) 12.41s.
Men: 200m: Luxolo Adams (RSA) 19.82s; **110m hurdles:** Devon Allen (USA) 13.16s.

IN BRIEF

Quartararo wins German MotoGP

SACHSENRING

Reigning World champion Fabio Quartararo extended his lead in the overall standings with a commanding performance to win the German MotoGP on Sunday. The Yamaha rider dominated in scorching temperatures at the Sachsenring with fellow Frenchman Johann Zarco finishing second and Australia's Jack Miller third. AFP

Lalbiakkima loses WBC Asian title fight

DUBAI

Indian boxer N.T. Lalbiakkima lost to Filipino Jayson Vayson in a 10-round WBC Asian Boxing Council's continental light flyweight title fight here on Saturday. Vayson, ranked 47th in the world, handed Lalbialkima his first loss in his five-fight Pro career. Vayson extended his undefeated record to 10. PTI

Carlos Delgado returns to Odisha FC

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha FC on Sunday announced the return of Spanish centre back Carlos Delgado after two years, reuniting with Josep Gombau. Delgado amassed 1389 minutes of serious game time over 16 matches in his debut season with the Juggernauts in 2019-2020. PTI

Ramkumar loses doubles final

ILKLEY (GREAT BRITAIN)

Ramkumar Ramanathan and John-Patrick Smith of Australia lost 7-5, 6-4 in the doubles final to British wild cards Julian Cash and Henry Patten in the €134,920 Challenger here. The champion team won 125 ATP points and €7,870. The runners-up pocketed 75 points and €4,570.

Other results:

$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Singles (final): Nam Hoang Ly (Vie) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.

India finishes fifth

DOHA

India defeated Korea 90-80 to finish fifth in the FIBA U-16 Asian Championship here on Sunday. In the Classification Game for the fifth-sixth spot against Korea, Lokendra Singh led India's charge with 29 points and was ably assisted by the trio of Jaideep Rathore (20), Harsh Dagar (19) and Kushal Singh (18).

The result:

India 90 (Lokendra Singh 29, Jaideep Rathore 20, Harsh Dagar 19, Kushal Singh 18) bt Korea 80 (Mingyo Ku 17).

Anahat wins Asian u-15 title

Anahat. • FILE PHOTO

SQUASH

SPORTS BUREAU

Anahat Singh of India bagged the girls' under-15 title in the Asian junior individual squash championships at Tambon Na Chom Thian (Thailand) on Sunday, with a 11-7, 12-10, 11-5 win over Ena Kwong of Hong Kong in the final.

Anahat did not drop a game in the tournament and it was her maiden Asian title and eighth (International) overall.

The Indian contingent will return home with six medals, including a gold and five bronze.

The bronze medallists:

Anika Dubey (girls' u-13), Shiven Agarwal (boys' u-13), Lokesh Subramani (boys' u-13), Tiana Parasurampuriya (girls' u-17), Sharan Punjabi (boys' u-17).

Zalatoris, Fitzpatrick take over at the top

Rahm one shot behind as conditions turn challenging

US OPEN GOLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BROOKLINE

Taming the course: Fitzpatrick put himself in line to win the Open where he was an amateur champion. • AFP

England's Matt Fitzpatrick and American Will Zalatoris, each chasing a first Major title, shared the lead after Saturday's third round of the US Open as brisk wind and brutal rough tormented golf's top stars.

Fitzpatrick birdied three of the last five holes but a closing bogey left him level with Zalatoris, last month's PGA Championship runner-up, on four-under 206, one ahead of defending champion Jon Rahm after three rounds.

Zalatoris, also last year's Masters runner-up, fired a three-under 67 while Fitzpatrick, the 2013 US Amateur winner here, fired a 68.

Tough day

The Country Club bared its teeth in formidable conditions to humble World No. 2 Rahm, four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy, top-ranked Masters champion Scottie Scheffler and two-time Major winner Collin Morikawa among others.

"It was one of the toughest days on a golf course I've had in a long time," McIlroy said after a 73.

Fitzpatrick can match Jack Nicklaus as the only players to win the US Amateur and Open, Nicklaus doing it at Pebble Beach.

Scheffler shared fourth on 208 after a rollercoaster 71 alongside fellow American Keegan Bradley and Canada's Adam Hadwin.

Third-ranked McIlroy endured nightmare putting to share seventh on 209 with Americans Sam Burns and Joel Dahmen.

Reigning British Open champion Morikawa went bogey-double bogey on the sixth and seventh and again on the 12th and 13th on the way to a 77 to share 17th on 212, six shots back.

The scores: 206: Will Zalatoris (USA, 69, 70, 67), Matthe, Fitzpatrick (Eng, 68, 70, 68).

207: Jon Rahm (Esp, 69, 67, 71).

208: Adam Hadwin (Can, 66, 72, 70), Keegan Bradley (USA, 70, 69, 69), Scottie Scheffler (USA, 70, 67, 71).

209: Joel Dahmen (USA, 67, 68, 74), Sam Burns (USA, 71, 67, 71), Rory McIlroy (NIR, 67, 69, 73).

SNAPSHOTS

World No. 1 Axelsen keeps Indonesia Open crown

JAKARTA: World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen triumphed in straight sets over underdog Zhao Jun Peng of China on Sunday, clinching the Indonesia Open badminton championship for the second consecutive year.

The Danish ace took the first set at Jakarta's Istora Senayan arena on the back of superb defence against his left-handed opponent's heavy pressure.

Zhao's aggressive approach ultimately cost him, leading to several errors in the second and final set as Axelsen took home the title, winning 21-9, 21-10.

The Olympic champion came into the match having won the Indonesia Masters 2022 just last week.

"Today, I just tried to come in there and use my experience. I tried to control the drifts the best way I could.

"I tried to play at a high pace and it really paid off," Axelsen told journalists after the match.

The women's singles final, was won by second-ranked Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan who defeated China's unseeded Wang Zhi Yi 21-23, 21-6, 21-15.

"I'm very happy that a lot of people cheered me ," Tai said.

Pooja bags bronze

NEW DELHI: Pooja Danole won the bronze in the women's individual pursuit, breaking her own National record with a time of 2m 31.277s in the Asian cycling championship at the Indira Gandhi Velodrome on Sunday.

Her previous record was 2:37.410.

Mizuki Ikeda of Japan won the gold, beating Yunyeong Cheon of Korea.

In the junior men's section, Niraj Kumar was beaten to the gold by Kazakhstan rider Maxim Traskin.

In the para cycling event, Jyoti Gaderaya won the gold defeating compatriot Geeta Rao. Jyoti finished in a time of 5:24.990.

Jinan clinches a double

NATL. SUPERCROSS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE

Riding high: Jinan, right, of Petronas TVS Racing clawed his way back into contention for the championship. • M. PERIASAMY

C.D. Jinan of Petronas TVS Racing clinched a grand double in the prestigious SX1 Foreign Open class in the third round of the MRF MoGrip FMSCI National Supercross championship at the CODISSIA grounds here on Sunday.

Not a great start

The 46-year-old Jinan from Kerala, who was on a TVS RTR 300, did not have a great start to the season, having crashed in Pune followed by flat tyres in the second round. But he put that aside to pull off an incredible performance and claw his way back into contention for the championship.

"The track was very technical and you cannot afford to go full throttle. If you are over aggressive on a track like this you will struggle to keep the flow going," said Jinan, who was in total control in both the races.

The second race was hotter still, both in terms of the heat and the competition. But, Jinan, an experienced supercross rider as he is, beat both to complete a fine double.

"The table tops were too high and you had to be careful with your landing as you may rebound. That was the main challenge, but then the rest was pretty easy," he said.

Sarthak Chavan of Pune did likewise scoring a super double in the SX2 class. In the junior SX2, it was Akshat Hupale, also from Pune, who won both the races.

The Joker Lane, reintroduced after several years, made it all the more tight for the riders but the best planned it right.

Shyam Kothari of Godspeed, the man behind the show, was pleased that the event not only pulled a large gathering but was incident free.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

KSCA to refund 50% of ticket value

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) announced that a 50% refund will be provided for those who purchased tickets for the rain-affected T20I between South Africa and India at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. The fifth and final T20I was abandoned after just 3.3 overs of play.

Refunds will be given upon producing the physical copy of the ticket. The KSCA will soon announce the details of the process to avail the refund for physical and online purchases.

KSBA-B reigns

KSBA-B defeated Bowring Institute 566-518 in the final of the Chandra Bhatia inter-club snooker championship.

Big win for Young Stars

Young Stars FC beat Bangalore Catholics FC 5-1 in the KSFA Women's B-division league. Young Stars opened the scoring in the fourth minute through Nandita Balaji before Bangalore Catholics equalised in the ninth through S.M. Deivanai. But after that, it was one-way traffic as Young Stars scored in the 10th, 15th and 20th minutes, including a second for Nandita. The rout was completed by Jhinushree in the 35th minute.

Triumphant: The KSBA-B team which won the title.

The results: GRK Glittering Stars FC 1 (Madhu Snutha 33) bt Alchemy International FC 0; Technico Football Foundation 1 (Ashwini Reddy 34) bt FC Bengaluru United 0; Young Stars FC 5 (Nandita Balaji 4, 15, M. Vismaya 10, Bhuvi Satish 20, S. Jhinushree 35) bt Bangalore Catholic FC 1 (S.M. Deivanai 9); Legends de Sporting Bengaluru 2 (Abhirami Vadivel 2, 34) bt William Women's FC 0.

Belagavi, Dakshin Kannada share points

Honours were even in the KSFA Inter-District Tournament match between Belagavi and Dakshin Kannada on Sunday as it ended in 1-1 draw at the Bangalore Football Stadium.

Dakshin Kannada opened the scoring early in the first half through a long-range effort from forward Faraz Ahmed in the 46th minute.

Belagavi was reduced to 10 men in the 67th minute when defender Anthony saw a straight red card for a last-man tackle. From the subsequent free-kick, Dakshin Kannada hit the crossbar before Belagavi grabbed an equaliser in the 74th minute through forward Pradyum Bokade.

Vignesh, Joel do it for Mounts Club

Vignesh (26 points) and Joel (14) led Mounts Club to a narrow 77-74 win over Mallasajjan BC Dharwad in the State C-division basketball league championship on Sunday. For Mallasajjan, Karthik scored 32 points.

Vivaan Sachdev and Shriya Revankar were crowned the open and girls' category champions respectively at the Karnataka State under-19 chess championship that ended in Kalaburagi on Sunday. Vivaan and Shriya both finished with seven points from eight rounds to emerge victorious.

Vivaan, K. Thejas, Charith Bhat and Nishant D'Souza finished top-four in the Open category while Shriya, Prasiddhi Bhat, U.A. Disha and Manasa were the best four among the girls. The eight will represent Karnataka at the National Under-19 open and girls' championship at Pune in July.

Nithyashree, Taneesha are champions

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ALAPPUZHA

Worthy winners: Taneesha and Nithyashree with their trophies. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nithyashree Mani (TTTA) and Taneesha Kotecha (Maharashtra) won the under-19 and under-17 girls' titles respectively in the 83rd National junior and youth table tennis championships at the YMCA Arena here on Sunday.

In the under-19 final, third-ranked Nithyashree dropped the first set 8-11 to Risha Mirchandani (Maharashtra). But Nithyashree improved her defensive game in the second set to force errors from her rival to draw level.

The turnaround came in the third, which Nithyashree won 14-12 after trailing most of the set. The Tamil Nadu girl then unleashed her scorching forehands in the fourth and fifth sets as Risha faded away to lose the match 8-11, 11-7, 14-12, 11-3, 11-8.

Giant-killer Subhankrita Datta (NCOE) toppled two big seeds, Kavyashree Baskar in the quarterfinals and Pritha Vartikar in the semifinals, on way to the under-17 final.

But the Bengal girl couldn't replicate the form against the experienced Taneesha Kotecha.

Taneesha never allowed her opponent to settle down, playing aggressively from the start. Subhankrita struggled to keep the rallies going and made several errors to lose the match rather tamely 6-11, 6-11, 5-11, 4-11.

The results:

Under-17: Final: Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) bt Subhankrita Datta (NCOE) 11-6, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4.

Semifinals: Taneesha bt Jennifer Varghese (Mah) 11-9, 4-11, 11-5, 8-11, 11-4, 12-10; Subhankrita bt Pritha Vartikar (Mah) 13-11, 8-11, 8-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-8, 15-13.

Under-19: Final: Nithyashree Mani (TTTA) bt Risha Mirchandani (Mah) 8-11, 11-7, 14-12, 11-3, 11-8.

Semifinals: Risha bt Munmun Kundu (Ben) 11-5, 11-7, 11-7, 11-9; Nithyashree bt Yashaswini Ghorpade (Kar) 11-4, 11-7, 11-9, 12-10.

Marchand scorches to medley World title

Ledecky, Winnington make amends for Tokyo disappointment

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BUDAPEST

Prowess on display: Marchand proved he would be worthy of taking over Phelps' mantle. • AFP

While American Katie Ledecky and Australian Elijah Winnington gained redemption for Tokyo Olympics disappointment, young Frenchman Leon Marchand made clear he had Paris on his mind after a scorching medley on the first evening of the World swimming championships here on Saturday.

In the 400m freestyle relays, the Olympic champions continued their domination as the US men and Australian women both won with a second to spare.

The results:

Men: 400m freestyle: 1. Elijah Winnington (Aus) 3:41.22s; 2. Lukas Martens (Ger) 3:42.85s; 3. Guilherme Pereira da Costa (Bra) 3:43.31s.

400m medley: 1. Leon Marchand (Fra) 4:04.28s **(CR)**; 2. Foster Carson (USA) 4:06.56s; 3. Chase Kalisz (USA) 4:07.47s.

400m relay: 1. USA 3:09.34s; 2. Autralia 3:10.80s; 3. Italy 3:10.95s.

Women: 400m freestyle: 1. Katie Ledecky (USA) 3:58.15 **(CR)**; 2. Summer McIntosh (Can) 3:59.39s; 3. Leah Smith (USA) 4:02.08.

400m relay: 1. Australia 3:30.95s; 2. Canada 3:32.15s; 3. USA 3:32.58s.

Philosophy corners glory in Fillies Championship Stakes

BENGALURU: S. Padmanabhan-trained Philosophy (Sandesh up) won the Fillies Championship Stakes, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 19). The winner is owned by Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad and Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Jockey Sandesh won three races for the day.

Sandesh, who rode confidently, kept her filly second or third last till 600m, started manoeuvring his mount in the home stretch. Philosophy responded tremendously to the reminders and galloped with giant strides to overtake the leader Crown Consort, passing the last 150m and won comfortably.

THE RESULTS:

1. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **ALTAIR** (Ajeet K) 1, Don's Den (G. Vivek) 2, Bramastram (S. Shareef) 3 and Sky Princess (Ashhad A) 4. 3/4, 3-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 16.27s. ₹41 (w), 15, 14 and 33 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 68, FP: 197, Q: 89, Trinella: 928 and 700, Exacta: 1,859 and 643. Favourite: Sky Princess. Owners: Mr. Divya Chawcharia, Mr. Sharat Kumar & Mr. K. Santhosh Kumar. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

2. STAR CONTENDER PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **ASHWA MAGADHEERA** (Suraj) 1, Electric Blue (Richard Oilver) 2, Spectacular (Sandesh) 3 and Augusto (L.A. Rozario) 4. Not run: Nikolina. 1-1/2, 1-1/2 and 6. 1m 27.88s. ₹20 (w), 13, 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 38, FP: 64, Q: 30, Trinella: 89 and 33, Exacta: 253 and 233. Favourite: Ashwa Magadheera. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: S. Narredu.

3. RARE GEM PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **PINNACLE POINT** (K. Nazil) 1, Monteverdi (Hindu S) 2, Prime Abbess (Md. Akram) 3 and Gimme (N.S. Parmar) 4. Not run: Tycoonist. 1, 4-3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m 16.39s. ₹203 (w), 40, 16 and 86 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 204, FP: 1,048, Q: 1,002, Trinella: 18,135, Exacta: 10,566 (carried over). Favourite: Kiefer. Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co. Ltd. & Vinayaka Breeders Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

4. STEWARDS CUP (1,200m), rated 60 to 85: **LUCKY CHANCE** (Sandesh) 1, Psychic Warrior (J.H. Arul) 2, Cavallini (Akshay K) 3 and Colonel Harty (Rajesh K) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and 2. 1m 14.55s. ₹35 (w), 15 and 24 (p), SHP: 45, THP: 29, FP: 230, Q: 140, Trinella: 370 and 92, Exacta: 2,506 and 1,253. Favourite: Obsidian. Owner: Mr. H. Thambuswamy. Trainer: S. Dominic.

Taking the honours: Turf Authorities of India and BTC chairman K. Uday Eswaran, left, with trainer S. Ganapathy, centre, Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, the owners of Philosophy, the winner of the Fillies Championship Stakes, and jockey A. Sandesh, second from left, in Bengaluru on Sunday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

5. FILLIES CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600m), 3-y-o fillies, (Terms): **PHILOSOPHY** (Speaking Of Which - Manifold) Sandesh 1, Dangerous (Speaking Of Which - Transformation) C.S. Jodha 2, King's Ransom (Multidimensional - China Creek) P.S. Chouhan 3 and Crown Consort (Sanus Per Aquam - Crown Empress) Suraj 4. 2, 1-1/4 and Lnk. 1m 39.80s. ₹55 (w), 19, 37 and 13 (p), SHP: 81, THP: 75, FP: 1,017, Q: 456, Trinella: 1,300 and 434, Exacta: 3,344 and 1,433. Favourite: King's Ransom. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad and Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

6. K.S. PRASAD MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65: **PROMISE KEPT** (Trevor) 1, The Inheritor (J.H. Arul) 2, Imperial Blue (Akshay K) 3 and Success (Hindu S) 4. Shd, 2-1/4 and 1. 1m 27.12s. ₹39 (w), 15, 27 and 12 (p), SHP: 93, THP: 68, FP: 529, Q: 386, Trinella: 835 and 224, Exacta: 13,543 and 5,804. Favourite: Imperial Blue. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

7. BERGAMO PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **MULTISTARRER** (Sandesh) 1, Capable (G. Vivek) 2, Pink Jasmine (Trevor) 3 and Winmylove (Gaurav S) 4. 2, 3/4 and 1. 1m 39.83s. ₹60 (w), 19, 20 and 17 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 53, FP: 1,143, Q: 767, Trinella: 6,988 and 1,711, Exacta: 19,082 and 16,356. Favourite: Siege Perilous. Owners: Mr. Homi F. Mehta, Mr. Jehangir Homi Mehta, Mr. Nozer Panthaky & Mrs. Laine Milan Luthria & Mr. Milan Luthria and Mrs. Homi F. Mehta. Trainer: Imtiaz Sait.

8. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **GOLD GRAY** (Siddaraju) 1, Handsome Rocky (Rajesh K) 2, Matera (Richard Oliver) 3 and Amazing Luck (B. Nayak) 4. Not run: Cinco De Mayo. 6, 1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m 15.70s. ₹40 (w), 15, 22 and 12 (p), SHP: 74, THP: 56, FP: 1,013, Q: 686, Trinella: 1,984 and 644, Exacta: 71,238. Favourite: Matera. Owners: Mr. B.K. Muralidhar & Mr. Dinesh Kumar K. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

Jackpot: ₹2,16,982 (one tkt.); Runner-up: 2,735 (34 tkts.); Treble (i): 13,356 (one tkt.); (ii): 2,159 (10 tkts).